



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	New Orleans, Louisiana	Accident Number:	GAA19CA009
Date & Time:	October 6, 2018, 11:15 Local	Registration:	N56949
Aircraft:	Stearman A75N1(PT17)	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, while landing in a crosswind, the tailwheel-equipped biplane was "thrustured downward violently" and landed hard. He added that the biplane then veered right off the runway. He then attempted a go-around, but after applying power, realized the need for full left aileron to maintain heading. He decided to abort the go-around and reduced power to land. During the landing, he used brakes to avoid airport signs in the landing path, the right main tire "got some traction," and the biplane ground looped to the right.

The biplane sustained substantial damage to both lower wings and the elevator.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the biplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The pilot reported that the wind was from 110° at 15 knots and that terrain-induced moderate turbulence existed. The automated weather observation system at the airport reported the following about the time of the accident: temperature 88°F, dew point 75°F, visibility 10 miles, wind from 110° at 11 knots, and a broken layer of clouds at 2,800 ft. The pilot was landing the biplane on runway 18L.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to maintain directional control during a crosswind landing.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Other weather encounter
Landing	Hard landing
Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Approach-VFR go-around	Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	72,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 30, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 4, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 2631 hours (Total, all aircraft), 251 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Stearman	Registration:	N56949
Model/Series:	A75N1(PT17) Undesignat	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1944	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	752793
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 23, 2017 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6674 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	R-985 Series
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	450 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KNEW,9 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:43 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	348°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2800 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	11 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	110°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.04 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	31°C / 24°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Slidell, LA (ASD)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	New Orleans, LA (NEW)	Type of Clearance:	VFR flight following
Departure Time:	10:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	LAKEFRONT NEW	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	7 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	18L	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3697 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	30.03861,-90.02639(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	George Waddell; FAA; Baton Rouge, LA
Original Publish Date:	April 8, 2019
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98432

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