



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Zelienople, Pennsylvania	Accident Number:	GAA18CA278
Date & Time:	May 12, 2018, 11:00 Local	Registration:	N2485D
Aircraft:	Cessna 170	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot in the tailwheel-equipped airplane, during the landing roll with the tailwheel on the ground, the airplane may have encountered a wind gust. The airplane exited the runway to the left, and the left main landing gear struck a taxiway sign.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left main landing gear attachment points, the lower fuselage longeron, and the elevator.

The pilot reported that the wind at the airport about the time of the accident was variable at 4 knots and that skies were clear.

The nearest METAR to the accident site, located 11 miles to the west, reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was from 270° at 8 knots with lightning in the distance to the northwest. The pilot landed the airplane on runway 35.

The pilot reported that the accident could have been prevented if he had more quickly applied corrective actions, including increasing right rudder pedal pressure, using more differential braking, and increasing right aileron input.

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

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 the landing roll.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Sign/marker - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	65,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 24, 2016
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	February 4, 2017
Flight Time:	226.6 hours (Total, all aircraft), 42 hours (Total, this make and model), 150.6 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 14.6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2.5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1.3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N2485D
Model/Series:	170 B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1952	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	20637
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 28, 2018 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3308.9 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	C145
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	145 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KBVI, 1252 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	11 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:47 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	259°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.02 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22°C / 13°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Zelienople, PA (PJC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Zelienople, PA (PJC)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	09:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	ZELIENOPLE MUNI PJC	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	897 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	35	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4933 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	40.801944,-80.160835(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Joe McBride; FAA; Pittsburgh, PA
Original Publish Date:	March 18, 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=97246

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