



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Statesville, North Carolina	Accident Number:	ERA17CA114
Date & Time:	February 18, 2017, 13:15 Local	Registration:	N738DS
Aircraft:	Cessna 172N	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The student pilot was on the second leg of a solo cross-county training flight. During the landing flare at the destination airport, he landed the airplane "hard," and it bounced twice before he was able to regain control. He taxied back to the beginning of the runway and conducted a run-up. Noting no anomalies, he taxied onto the runway and started the takeoff roll. During the takeoff, he pulled back on the yoke "too far," and the airplane climbed between 30 and 40 ft before entering an aerodynamic stall and colliding with the ground. The nose landing gear collapsed, and the propeller struck the ground, which resulted in substantial damage to the fuselage.

The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical anomalies with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation. It could not be determined whether the airplane incurred damage during the hard landing that would have impacted the pilot's ability to maintain pitch control during the subsequent takeoff; therefore, the reason for the loss of control could not be determined.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

A loss of airplane control during takeoff for reasons that could not be determined based on the available information.

Findings

Not determined	(general) - Unknown/Not determined
Aircraft	(general) - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Takeoff	Aerodynamic stall/spin

Student pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	52,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
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:	August 13, 2015
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	53 hours (Total, all aircraft), 44 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N738DS
Model/Series:	172N N	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1977	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	17269901
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 19, 2017 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2299 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	10509 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 SERIES
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	160 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:	SVH,967 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:10 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	200°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.88 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20°C / 1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Statesville, NC (SVH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Statesville, NC (SVH)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	STATESVILLE RGNL SVH	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	967 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	28	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7003 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Stop and go

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:	35.764999,-80.953887(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Alleyne, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael R Moran; FAA/FSDO; Charlotte, NC
Original Publish Date:	December 15, 2017
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=94773

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