



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	St. Petersburg, Florida	Accident Number:	GAA19CA085
Date & Time:	November 28, 2018, 12:30 Local	Registration:	N54058
Aircraft:	Cessna 172	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Minor, 3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Aerial observation		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, before the flight, he was rushed and did not follow the preflight checklist. During the takeoff with the airplane its near maximum gross weight, he noticed that it was accelerating slowly but that the airspeed was sufficient. He applied elevator back pressure to rotate, but he immediately noticed that the control lock was still in place on the yoke, and he attempted to remove it to no avail. He added that he did not recall trying to abort the takeoff or reduce power. The airplane overran the end of the runway, impacted water, and inverted before sinking.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and empennage.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 remove the gust lock before flight, which resulted in the airplane's inability to rotate and a subsequent runway overrun. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's failure to follow the preflight checklist.

Findings

Aircraft	Gust lock or damper - Unintentional use/operation
Personnel issues	Forgotten action/omission - Pilot
Aircraft	(general) - Attain/maintain not possible
Personnel issues	Use of checklist - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Miscellaneous/other
Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff	Attempted remediation/recovery
Takeoff	Runway excursion
Takeoff	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	56,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 16, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	February 20, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 653 hours (Total, all aircraft), 391.7 hours (Total, this make and model), 609.5 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 217.6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 89.9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N54058
Model/Series:	172 P	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1981	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17274863
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-D2J
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:	KSPG, 8 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:45 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	270°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	330°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.12 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	12°C / 2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	St. Petersburg, FL (SPG)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	St. Petersburg, FL (SPG)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	12:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	ALBERT WHITTED SPG	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	6 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2864 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor, 2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	27.764999,-82.626663(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Andrew D Murray; FAA; Tampa, FL
Original Publish Date:	September 26, 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=98695

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