



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Marathon, Texas	Accident Number:	GAA19CA004
Date & Time:	October 4, 2018, 19:20 Local	Registration:	N553CM
Aircraft:	Cessna 310	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Wildlife encounter (non-bird)	Injuries:	4 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during landing on a private dirt airstrip on his ranch, the airplane collided with a cow. The pilot added that he did not see the cow during the approach or on the runway during touchdown.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing and right engine mounts.

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 see and avoid a cow on the airstrip during landing.

Findings

Personnel issues	Task monitoring/vigilance - Pilot
Environmental issues	Animal(s)/bird(s) - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Wildlife encounter (non-bird) (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	48,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 multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 14, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 29, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 6000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 350 hours (Total, this make and model), 5100 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N553CM
Model/Series:	310 R	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1974	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	310R0169
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 4, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5501 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7149 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO 520 A2B
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	300 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:	K6R6,2322 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	28 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	00:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	62°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	11 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	100°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C / 20°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lago Vista, TX (RYW)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Marathon, TX (PVT)	Type of Clearance:	VFR flight following
Departure Time:	18:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Desert Mountain Ranch PVT	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	2800 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	4 None	Latitude, Longitude:	29.823333,-102.690551(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Nepomuceno, Eleazar
Additional Participating Persons:	Dawna Gournic; FAA; Lubbock, TX
Original Publish Date:	June 5, 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=98416

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).