



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Dowagiac, Michigan	Accident Number:	GAA18CA471
Date & Time:	August 4, 2018, 17:15 Local	Registration:	N8994V
Aircraft:	Cessna 172	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during takeoff from a soft-field runway, about 10 ft above the ground, the airplane drifted left. He added that the left wing "dipped" and contacted the ground and that the airplane then impacted terrain.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing, right elevator, and fuselage.

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

The pilot reported that he should have "stayed longer in ground effect."

The airport's automated weather observation station reported that, about 20 minutes before the accident, the wind was from 210° at 10 knots and that, about 40 minutes after the accident, the wind was from 190° at 7 knots. The airplane departed from runway 22.

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 bank control during takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft	Lateral/bank control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Initial climb	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	53,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:	June 8, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	June 18, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 72 hours (Total, all aircraft), 70 hours (Total, this make and model), 19 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N8994V
Model/Series:	172 M	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1974	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17264349
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 18, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2110 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	11139 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 E2D
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	150 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:	KSBN, 773 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	19 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	206°
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:	210°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.06 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	32°C / 21°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Dowagiac, MI (C91)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	South Bend, IN (SBN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	18:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Dowagiac Muni C91	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	747 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry;Soft;Vegetation
Runway Used:	22	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2176 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	41.993057,-86.128334(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Nepomuceno, Eleazar
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael Matthews; FAA; Grand Rapids, MI
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=98003

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