Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Cortland, New York	**Accident Number:**	ERA23LA374
Date & Time:	September 14, 2023, 15:05 Local	**Registration:**	N5269G
Aircraft:	Cessna 305	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	**Injuries:**	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The multi-segment cross-country flight was the pilot's first time flying the tailwheel-equipped airplane. Arriving at the destination airport, the pilot noted quartering gusts when he cleared a tree line to land on the asphalt runway. Following touchdown, the airplane pulled to the right and he applied left brake to correct; however, the airplane nosed over. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wings, empennage, and fuselage. Postaccident examination of the brakes revealed no evidence of any preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions that would have precluded normal operation. The recorded wind at the nearest weather reporting facility, about 13 miles southwest of the accident airport, was a quartering right crosswind at 12 knots, gusting to 19 knots at the time of the accident.

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 while landing in a gusting crosswind, which resulted in a noseover. Contributing was the pilot's lack of familiarity with the airplane.

Findings

Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Personnel issues	Knowledge of equipment - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	**Age:**	58,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	**Seat Occupied:**	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	**Second Pilot Present:**	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	**Toxicology Performed:**	
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	January 19, 2023
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	January 9, 2023
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 5050 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5.8 hours (Total, this make and model), 4846 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 360 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	**Registration:**	N5269G
Model/Series:	305 A	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1951	**Amateur Built:**	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility	**Serial Number:**	21471
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	February 22, 2023 Annual	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	2400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		**Engine Manufacturer:**	Continental
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	**Engine Model/Series:**	O-470
Registered Owner:	On file	**Rated Power:**	213 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	**Operating Certificate(s) Held:**	Agricultural aircraft (137)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ITH,1099 ft msl	**Distance from Accident Site:**	13 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:56 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	240°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		**Visibility**	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4000 ft AGL	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	12 knots / 19 knots	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	/ None
Wind Direction:	290°	**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.17 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	16°C / 8°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Rutland, VT (RUT)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	Cortland, NY	**Type of Clearance:**	None
Departure Time:	12:06 Local	**Type of Airspace:**	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	CORTLAND COUNTY-CHASE FLD N03	**Runway Surface Type:**	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1197 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	Dry
Runway Used:	24	**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:	3401 ft / 75 ft	**VFR Approach/Landing:**	Full stop;Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Fire:**	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	**Latitude, Longitude:**	42.592642,-76.214883(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Spencer, Lynn
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael Mantione; FAA/FSDO; Rochester, NY
Original Publish Date:	November 9, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=193083