



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	HEAD WATERS, VA	Accident Number:	BFO95LA054
Date & Time:	06/01/1995, 1730 EDT	Registration:	N3065E
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172N	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

DURING TAKEOFF FROM A WET, GRASS-COVERED, 1,800 FOOT-LONG, PRIVATE AIRSTRIP, THE AIRPLANE LIFTED OFF THEN SETTLED BACK ONTO THE GRASS STRIP. THE PILOT ABORTED THE TAKEOFF ABOUT 1,000 FEET DOWN THE AIRSTRIP. THE PILOT INTENTIONALLY ANGLED THE AIRPLANE OFF THE AIRSTRIP INTO TALL GRASS TO HELP STOP THE AIRPLANE. THE AIRPLANE ROLLED DOWN AN EMBANKMENT AND ITS NOSE GEAR COLLAPSED. THE PILOT STATED HE THOUGHT THE ENGINE DIDN'T SEEM TO BE DEVELOPING FULL POWER. POSTACCIDENT EXAMINATION REVEALED NO EVIDENCE OF PREIMPACT MECHANICAL ANOMALY.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's poor planning/decision making in the attempted departure. Contributing factors are the wet, recently mowed grass airstrip, and the embankment/downhill grade encountered during the aborted takeoff.

Findings

Occurrence #1: OVERRUN
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ABORTED

Findings

1. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - GRASS
2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - WET
3. (C) PLANNING/DECISION - POOR

Occurrence #2: NOSE GEAR COLLAPSED
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ABORTED

Findings

4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - DROP-OFF/DESCENDING EMBANKMENT

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	39
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	792 hours (Total, all aircraft), 321 hours (Total, this make and model), 697 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 28 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N3065E
Model/Series:	172N 172N	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	NAVCOM AVIATION INC	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-H2AD
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 6000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	21 °C	Visibility	5 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Destination:	MANASSAS, VA (HEF)

Airport Information

Airport:	PRIVATE AIRSTRIP	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	35	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Length/Width:	1800 ft / 50 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): MARGARET B NAPOLITAN

Adopted Date: 10/19/1995

Investigation Docket: NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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