



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	MCLEARY, WA	Accident Number:	SEA96LA047
Date & Time:	02/04/1996, 1000 PST	Registration:	N6750H
Aircraft:	Cessna 172M	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	4 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

On February 4, 1996, approximately 1000 Pacific standard time, a Cessna 172M, N6750H, being flown by a private pilot, sustained substantial damage when it collided with a tree top while in cruise on the lee side of Capitol Peak, approximately 6 nautical miles west of the Olympia airport, Olympia, Washington. The pilot reported visual meteorological conditions at the time of the accident. No flight plan had been filed. The pilot and three passengers were uninjured. The flight, which was a personal sightseeing trip, was to have been operated under 14CFR91, and originated from Tacoma, Washington, approximately 0900.

In a telephone interview, the pilot reported that he crossed Capitol Peak (elevation approximately 2,660 feet above sea level) approximately 400-500 feet above the terrain, headed eastbound, at approximately 65 percent power and immediately thereafter encountered a downdraft. The aircraft descended to tree top level and impacted a tree. Subsequent to the collision the pilot determined that the aircraft had sustained leading edge damage to its right wing from a point just forward of the strut attach point outboard for approximately 2 feet. He then diverted into Olympia landing approximately 1015.

The pilot reported westerly winds of 15 knots gusting to 20 knots at the time of the accident. The forecast winds at Seattle at 3,000 feet above sea level were for the morning of the accident were from 300 degrees true at 17 knots.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	52, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/13/1995
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	320 hours (Total, all aircraft), 80 hours (Total, this make and model), 260 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N6750H
Model/Series:	172M 172M	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	17265566
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	56 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7828 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:	PAVCO, INC.	Rated Power:	150 hp
Operator:	WASEM, ROBERT, W.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	OLM, 206 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	6 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0956 PST	Direction from Accident Site:	80°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 700 ft agl	Visibility	7 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Unknown / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	140°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	3°C / 2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	TACOMA, WA (TIW)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0900 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	STEVEN A MCCREARY
Additional Participating Persons:	DONALD HAMILTON; RENTON, WA
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/ .