



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	FALLON, NV	Accident Number:	LAX94LA002
Date & Time:	10/01/1993, 1830 PDT	Registration:	N4266V
Aircraft:	CESSNA 170	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he had just purchased the airplane, and the accident occurred during his familiarization flight. The pilot took off and, along with the previous owner, flew to a local practice area. The previous owner demonstrated airwork and then demonstrated a takeoff and a landing. According to the pilot, he then attempted to land the airplane. During his first approach, he 'waved off.' The pilot further reported that during his second approach he was low. The pilot added full engine power, and the airplane's main landing gear collided with the airport's perimeter fence short of the runway. The pilot had not flown any airplane during the previous 90 days. Also, he had no previous piloting experience in the accident make and model airplane.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: was the pilot's failure to maintain an adequate approach path to the runway and his inadequate altitude. Contributing factors were the pilot's delayed remedial action and his lack of recent experience in the airplane.

Findings

Occurrence #1: UNDERSHOOT

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

1. (C) PROPER GLIDEPATH - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) ALTITUDE - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) REMEDIAL ACTION - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) LACK OF RECENT EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OF AIRCRAFT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

Findings

5. OBJECT - FENCE

Factual Information

On October 1, 1993, at 1830 Pacific daylight time, a Cessna 170, N4266V, operated by the pilot, collided with the airport's perimeter fence on short final approach to runway 31 at the Fallon Municipal Airport, Fallon, Nevada. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the personal flight. The airplane was substantially damaged and the commercial pilot was not injured. The passenger received minor injuries. The flight originated from Fallon at 1750.

The pilot reported that he had just purchased the airplane, and the purpose of the flight was for his familiarization. The pilot reported that he took off and flew to a local practice area with the seller of the airplane on board. The seller demonstrated airwork, and then demonstrated a takeoff and a landing. The pilot further reported he then made an approach to runway 31, "waved off," and attempted another landing.

Regarding the attempted landing, the pilot made the following statement in his completed "Aircraft Accident Report," NTSB Form 6120.1: "When I realized I was landing short...I added full power to make a go-around. The main landing gear caught the perimeter fence and the aircraft came to rest on its right side."

The pilot indicated that he had not flown any airplane during the 90 days which preceded the accident. Also, his total piloting experience in the accident airplane's make and model was zero hours.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	54, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	04/24/1992
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 900 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N4266V
Model/Series:	170 170	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18624
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/01/1993, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	1 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-300
Registered Owner:	LEROY E. WARDEN	Rated Power:	150 hp
Operator:	JOEL R. HENDERSON	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	20 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	27° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1750 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	FALLON MUNICIPAL (FLX)	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	3963 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	31	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3650 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	WAYNE POLLACK,	Report Date:	09/13/1994
Additional Participating Persons:	TERRY VAN NATTA; RENO, NV		
Publish Date:			
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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