



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	REIDSVILLE, NC	Accident Number:	ATL92LA055
Date & Time:	03/01/1992, 1630 EST	Registration:	N517L
Aircraft:	PITTS S-1	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

THE PILOT REPORTED THAT A DOWNWIND APPROACH WAS MADE TO THE AIRSTRIP . TREES BOUNDED THE APPROACH THRESHOLD ON THREE SIDES. ON SHORT FINAL THE WIND ACROSS THE TREES, A QUARTERING TAIL WIND, RESULTED IN A DOWNDRAFT. THE AIRPLANE UNDERSHOT THE RUNWAY & STRUCK ONE OF THE THRESHOLD LIGHTS, AS IT LANDED HARD. A BALKED LANDING WAS EXECUTED. UNKNOWN TO THE PILOT, THE COLLISION WITH THE THRESHOLD LIGHT HAD COLLAPSED THE RIGHT MAIN LANDING GEAR. ON THE SUBSEQUENT LANDING THE AIRPLANE VEERED AS IT TOUCHED DOWN WHICH RESULTED IN SUBSTANTAIL DAMAGE.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT'S FAILURE TO COMPENSATE FOR THE TAILWIND AND THE IMPROPER TOUCH DOWN POINT. FACTORS WERE THE TAILWIND AND DOWNDRAFT WHICH RESULTED FROM THE TALL OBSTACLES (TREES) AROUND THE RUNWAY.

Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TAILWIND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
3. TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH OBSTRUCTION(S)
4. OBJECT - TREE(S)
5. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - NOT USED - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. (C) PROPER TOUCHDOWN POINT - NOT ATTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: MAIN GEAR COLLAPSED

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ABORTED

Occurrence #3: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

7. GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	42, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Center
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--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	03/01/1990
Occupational Pilot:	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:		
Flight Time:	781 hours (Total, all aircraft), 22 hours (Total, this make and model), 747 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PITTS	Registration:	N517L
Model/Series:	S-1 S-1	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	BP-2
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/12/1991, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1050 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	22 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	480 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-320-E2D
Registered Owner:	SPEER, JAMES M. JR.	Rated Power:	150 hp
Operator:	SPEER, JAMES M. JR.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	GSO, 926 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	20 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1550 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	220°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	14 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	230°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	17° C / -5° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BOONVILLE, NC (NONE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1600 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	WARF (6A5)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	820 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	35	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

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:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Preston E Hicks	Report Date:	03/12/1993
Additional Participating Persons:	JANE T LAMBERT; WINSTON-SALEM, NC		
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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