



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	REIDSVILLE, NC	Accident Number:	ATL92LA055
Date & Time:	03/01/1992, 1630 EST	Registration:	N517L
Aircraft:	PITTS S-1	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

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	42
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	SPEER, JAMES M. JR.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-E2D
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:	GSO, 926 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	14 knots / , 230°
Temperature:	17° C	Visibility:	15 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BOONVILLE, NC (NONE)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	WARF (6A5)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	35	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 150 ft		

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
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Preston E Hicks

Adopted Date: 03/12/1993

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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