



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	HOT SPRINGS, AR	Accident Number:	FTW00LA247
Date & Time:	09/01/2000, 1538 CDT	Registration:	N83866
Aircraft:	Aeronca BL7-AC	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

About 20 minutes into the cross-country flight, the pilot observed several lightning strikes ahead of his flight path. He turned 180 degrees to return to his departure point, and after about 5 minutes, he observed a storm developing in his flight path. He then decided to fly south toward the closest airport. Upon reaching the airport, he determined the winds to be light and variable out of the west. On final approach, just before touchdown on runway 23, 'wind started to buffet the aircraft.' Full aileron deflection was used to keep the right wing down after touchdown. The airplane then drifted off the runway and into the grass. As this was occurring, the pilot started to apply 'a little power' to gain more rudder control when 'a large gust of wind hit the aircraft causing the right wing to [go] completely over, striking the surface.' Subsequently, the airplane nosed over. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing spar, both wing struts, and the rudder. The wind, 16 minutes after the accident, was from 260 degrees at 16 knots with gusts to 26 knots.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain control during landing. A factor was the wind gusts.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS

Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	43
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	435 hours (Total, all aircraft), 11 hours (Total, this make and model), 402 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Aeronca	Registration:	N83866
Model/Series:	BL7-AC BL7-AC	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	KEITH R. ECKELMAN	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-C
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:	HOT, 503 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 15000 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	16 knots / 26 knots, 260°
Temperature:	30°C	Visibility	12 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	CONWAY, AR (M03)	Destination:	(HOT)

Airport Information

Airport:	HOT SPRINGS MUNI (HOT)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	23	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	6595 ft / 150 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	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): ALEXANDER LEMISHKO

Adopted Date: 04/19/2001

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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