



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	SEVEN SPRINGS, PA	Accident Number:	NYC01FA001
Date & Time:	10/01/2000, 1200 EDT	Registration:	N3039Y
Aircraft:	Piper PA-32-300	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal, 3 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to a witness, the airplane did not appear aligned with the runway as it approached. It touched down on the runway, but did not seem 'steady'. The engine revved and the airplane became airborne again. It then touched down off to the left side of the runway, onto the grass. The engine revved a second time, and the airplane became airborne, as if it was going to takeoff again. However, it did not clear trees off the right side of the runway. About the time of the accident, the wind was reported as calm at two airports within 35 miles of the accident site. Examination of the wreckage did not reveal any pre-impact mechanical malfunctions.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's improper recovery from a bounced landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (C) RECOVERY FROM BOUNCED LANDING - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

2. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Factual Information

HISTORY OF FLIGHT

On October 1, 2000, about 1200 Eastern Daylight Time, a Piper PA-32-300, N3039Y, was substantially damaged while landing at Seven Springs Airport (7SP), Seven Springs, Pennsylvania. The certificated private pilot and two passengers were seriously injured, and a third passenger was fatally injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and an instrument flight rules flight plan had been filed for the flight that originated from Wood County Airport (PKB), Parkersburg, West Virginia. The personal flight was conducted under 14 CFR Part 91.

A witness, who was riding his bicycle along a path adjacent to the runway, saw the airplane approach Runway 28. The airplane did not seem aligned with the runway during the approach. It touched down on the runway, but did not seem "steady". The engine revved and the airplane became airborne again. It then touched down off to the left side of the runway, onto the grass. The engine revved a second time, and the airplane became airborne, as if it was going to takeoff again. However, the airplane did not clear trees off the right side of the runway. After impacting the trees, it came to rest at the bottom of a steep drop-off, about 70 feet below the runway.

The pilot suffered head injuries, and did not recall the accident.

The accident occurred during the hours of daylight: located approximately 40 degrees, 00 minutes north longitude; and 79 degrees, 19 minutes west latitude.

PILOT INFORMATION

The pilot held a private pilot certificate, with ratings for single engine land and instrument airplane. His most recent Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) third class medical certificate was issued on June 29, 1999.

The pilot reported a total flight experience of 692 hours; of which, 71 hours were in the make and model accident airplane.

AIRCRAFT INFORMATION

The airplane had been operated for approximately 222 hours since the last annual inspection, performed on February 5, 2000.

AERODROME INFORMATION

7SP was located about 1 mile southwest of Seven Springs Borough, Pennsylvania. The airport was 2,907 feet above mean-sea-level. The single asphalt runway (10/28) was 3,045 feet long, and 45 feet wide.

METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION

The reported weather at an airport approximately 16 miles north of the accident site, at 1145, was: wind calm; visibility 15 miles; few clouds at 3,000 feet; scattered clouds at 25,000 feet; temperature 71 degrees Fahrenheit; dewpoint 46 degrees; altimeter 30.16 inches hg.

The reported wind at an airport approximately 35 miles southwest of the accident site, at 1153, was calm.

The reported wind at an airport approximately 50 miles northwest of the accident site, at 1153, was from 170 degrees at 7 knots. At the same airport, the reported winds aloft at 0800 was 225 degrees at 10 knots, at 2,736 feet.

WRECKAGE INFORMATION

Examination of the accident site revealed three ground scars consistent with tail-strikes. Two of the ground scars were on the runway, and the other was on the grass off to the left side of the runway. Several tire skid marks were observed in the vicinity of the tail-strikes. A tree branch was found near the wreckage. It was approximately 18 inches long, and contained fresh 45-degree cuts at both ends.

All major components of the airplane were accounted for at the accident scene. The left wing was separated at the wing root. The bellcrank was separated from its attach point, and flight control continuity was confirmed from the cockpit area to the bellcrank. The left aileron was deflected upward, and the flap was displaced approximately 180 degrees downward. Both fuel tanks in the left wing were compromised. Several impact marks were observed on the leading edge, consistent with tree-strikes, and the top of the wing was buckled.

The right wing was also separated at the wing root. Flight control continuity was confirmed from the cockpit area to the wing root, and then from the bellcrank to the right aileron. Where the control cables had separated, the ends of the cables displayed a broom-straw shape, consistent with tension overload. The right aileron was deflected upward, and the flap was displaced approximately 90 degrees downward. Both fuel tanks in the right wing were compromised. Several impact marks were observed on the leading edge, consistent with tree-strikes, and the top of the wing was buckled.

The left side of the fuselage displayed impact damage. Both the horizontal stabilator and vertical stabilizer contained impact marks consistent with tree-strikes. The elevator trim was found in a "neutral" to "nose down" position. Flight control continuity was established from the elevator and rudder to the cockpit area. There was less impact damage along the right side of the fuselage.

The cockpit area was intact. The flap handle and linkage corresponded to a flaps retracted setting. The throttle and propeller levers were in the full forward position, and the mixture was mid-range. The fuel selector was selected to the left main tank position. The elevator trim wheel was in a "nose down" position. Seatbelts were observed on all six seats, but shoulder harnesses were only installed on the front two seats.

One propeller blade exhibited chordwise scratching, and the other exhibited leading edge gouging. The valve covers were removed from the engine for examination. When the crankshaft was rotated by hand, crankshaft, camshaft, and valve train continuity was confirmed. Thumb compression was attained on all six cylinders. The spark plugs were removed and inspected. Their electrodes were intact and light gray in color. When the crankshaft was rotated by hand, the right magneto produced a spark at all leads. The left magneto was removed and rotated by hand. It produced spark at all six towers.

During the examination, fuel was found in the fuel lines, fuel manifold, and the engine driven fuel pump.

MEDICAL INFORMATION

Toxicological testing was performed on the pilot by Memorial Medical Center, Johnstown,

Pennsylvania.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The wreckage was released to a representative from the owner's insurance company on October 6, 2000.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	40
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/29/2000
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	692 hours (Total, all aircraft), 71 hours (Total, this make and model), 663 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 31 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N3039Y
Model/Series:	PA-32-300 PA-32-300	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	32-7940099
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/05/2000, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	222 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2432 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540
Registered Owner:	DAYTON PILOTS CLUB	Rated Power:	300 hp
Operator:	DAYTON PILOTS CLUB	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LBE, 1185 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	17 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1145 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	355°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 3000 ft agl	Visibility	15 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:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22° C / 8° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	PARKERSBURG, WV (PKB)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	(7SP)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1100 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	SEVEN SPRINGS AIRPORT (7SP)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	2907 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	28	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3045 ft / 42 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal, 2 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal, 3 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ROBERT J GRETZ	Report Date:	05/18/2001
Additional Participating Persons:	JEFFREY HALLIDAY; ALLEGHENY, PA DAVID MOORE; WILLIAMSPORT, PA ROBERT MARTELOTTI; VERO BEACH, FL		
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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