



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	GREAT FALLS, MT	Accident Number:	DEN87LA027
Date & Time:	12/02/1986, 1347 MST	Registration:	N4784A
Aircraft:	CESSNA 152A	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional

Analysis

THE STUDENT PLT WAS CLEARED TO MAKE A TOUCH-&-GO LANDING ON RWY 21. AS HE WAS LNDG, HE NOTICED THE ARRESTING BARRIER (CABLE) WAS RAISED. HE ADDED FULL PWR & PULLED BACK ON THE YOKE TO AVOID HITTING THE CABLE. THE ACFT LIFTED OFF, BUT ITS TAIL HIT THE CABLE. AT THAT TIME, THE PLT WAS UNAWARE OF ANY DAMAGE, SO HE CONTINUED FLYING (MADE A GO-AROUND). HE ADVISED TOWER PSNL THAT THE BARRIER CABLE WAS UP & THEY LOWERED THE CABLE. AFTER LANDING, AN INSPN REVEALED THE TAIL TIE-DOWN WAS MISSING & THE REAR BULKHEAD WAS PARTIALLY RIPPED OUT & BENT AGAINST THE RUDDER. ATC HANDBOOK REQUIRED TOWER PERSONNEL TO KEEP THE ARRESTING GEAR IN THE RETRACTED OR DOWN POSITION FOR NORMAL OPERATION.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (C) CONTROL TOWER SERVICE - INADEQUATE - ATC PERSONNEL(LCL/GND/CLNC)
2. (F) AIRPORT FACILITIES,RUNWAY/LANDING AREA CONDITION - INADEQUATE
3. (C) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - NOT FOLLOWED - ATC PERSONNEL(LCL/GND/CLNC)
4. REMEDIAL ACTION - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. CLEARANCE - NOT ATTAINED
6. GO-AROUND - PERFORMED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	40, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
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:	09/11/1986
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	34 hours (Total, all aircraft), 32 hours (Total, this make and model), 23 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 34 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N4784A
Model/Series:	152A 152A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Aerobatic; Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	A1520891
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/23/1986, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1670 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	50 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3154 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-L2C
Registered Owner:	B & B AIRCRAFT	Rated Power:	110 hp
Operator:	B & B AIRCRAFT	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:	VALLEY AVIATION	Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	GTF, 3674 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1300 MST	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 4000 ft agl	Visibility	20 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	350°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	1°C / -7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1230 MST	Type of Airspace:	Class D; Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	GREAT FALLS INT'L (GTF)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	3674 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	21	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	10502 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and Go; 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):	ARNOLD W SCOTT	Report Date:	
Additional Participating Persons:	KEN NCNEES; HELENA, MT		
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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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).