



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	St. Johns, AZ	Accident Number:	LAX02LA245
Date & Time:	08/01/2002, 0735 MST	Registration:	N2233D
Aircraft:	Cessna 170B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot attempted to make a three-point touchdown with a known crosswind and the airplane ground looped, veered off the runway, and collided with an airport boundary fence. Just after touchdown on runway 14, a ground loop commenced, and the airplane veered to the right. Left brake and rudder were applied in order to regain control, whereupon the airplane ran off the east side of the runway. The pilot decided to abort the landing and applied full power in an attempt to get the airplane airborne and under control, but the left wingtip contacted the ground. The airplane then struck a fence, impacted the ground, nosed over, and came to rest inverted. The automated surface observation system (ASOS) was reporting winds from 240 at 11 knots about 20 minutes after the accident. Runway 21 was available at the airport for the landing.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's selection of the wrong runway for the existing crosswind condition and his subsequent inadequate compensation for the winds, which led to a failure to maintain directional control and a ground loop.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CROSSWIND
2. (C) WRONG RUNWAY - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ABORTED

Findings

6. OBJECT - FENCE

Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ABORTED

Factual Information

On August 1, 2002, at 0735 mountain standard time, a Cessna 170B, N2233D, ground looped off the runway, hit a fence, and nosed over, while landing at St. Johns Industrial Air Park (SJN), St. Johns, Arizona. The airplane was owned and operated by the pilot under the provisions of 14 CFR Part 91. The private pilot, the sole occupant, was not injured; the airplane sustained substantial damage. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan had been filed for the local area personal flight that originated about 0700.

The pilot indicated that he was the last of a group of five aircraft to arrive at St. Johns and chose to land on runway 14, as the other members in the group had done. He was aware that a crosswind, "light and from the southwest," was present. Upon the attempted three-point touchdown, the airplane ground looped to the right. Left brake and rudder were applied, and the airplane veered off the east side of the runway. Noticing that the terrain dropped away on that side of the runway, the pilot added power and removed carburetor heat, in order to fly toward the lowering terrain and regain control of the airplane. However, the left wing tip made contact with soft terrain and the airplane struck a chain link fence while in flight. As a result, the airplane struck the ground nose first, and nosed over. The airplane came to rest inverted about 100 feet from the runway.

The automated surface observation system (ASOS) for St. Johns was reporting winds from 240 at 11 knots at 0754.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	60, Male
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:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	01/09/2001
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	07/30/2002
Flight Time:	754 hours (Total, all aircraft), 106 hours (Total, this make and model), 713 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N2233D
Model/Series:	170B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	20385
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/10/2001, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	17 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3951 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	C-145
Registered Owner:	Thomas D. Lynch	Rated Power:	145 hp
Operator:	Thomas D. Lynch	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSJN, 5736 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0754 MST	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	11 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	240°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.17 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C / 12° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	OVERGAARD, AZ (AZ82)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	St. Johns, AZ (SJN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0700 MST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	St. Johns Industrial Air Park (SJN)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5736 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	14	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5323 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; 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:	34.518333, -109.378611

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JEFF RICH	Report Date:	03/02/2004
Additional Participating Persons:	LARRY BUCHANAN; FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION; SCOTTSDALE, AZ		
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.ntsbt.gov/pubdms/ .		

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