



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Mazama, WA	Accident Number:	SEA04LA134
Date & Time:	08/01/2004, 1430 PDT	Registration:	N7815Z
Aircraft:	Cessna 150C	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot stated that he noted no problems with the airplane during the preflight inspection and the engine runup. After liftoff on runway 29, the airplane climbed to treetop level, at which point a gust of wind pushed the airplane left toward trees bordering the runway. The pilot had to bank the airplane to avoid the trees, and the airplane stopped climbing. After "barely clearing" the trees at the end of the runway, the pilot elected to put the airplane back on the ground as he was concerned the airplane might not clear trees located further ahead. He selected a streambed as an emergency landing site. During the emergency landing, the airplane contacted trees along the edge of the streambed. The pilot reported that the temperature was 88 degrees F and the winds were from 300 degrees at 3 knots. The airport elevation was 2,415 feet, and the density altitude was calculated to be approximately 5,000 feet.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate compensation for the weather conditions and his failure to maintain the initial takeoff climb, which resulted in a collision with trees during an emergency landing. Contributing factors were the unfavorable wind and high density altitude weather conditions.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH DENSITY ALTITUDE
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - UNFAVORABLE WIND
3. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) CLIMB - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. PRECAUTIONARY LANDING - INITIATED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Findings

6. OBJECT - TREE(S)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	38
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	174 hours (Total, all aircraft), 122 hours (Total, this make and model), 114 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N7815Z
Model/Series:	150C	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-200A
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:		Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots / , 300°
Temperature:	31 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Mazama, WA (W12)	Destination:	Arlington, WA (AWO)

Airport Information

Airport:	Lost River Resort (W12)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf; Gravel
Runway Used:	29	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3150 ft / 85 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	48.649444, -120.501944		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Georgia R Struhsaker

Adopted Date: 10/28/2004

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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