



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	San Diego, CA	Accident Number:	LAX07CA100
Date & Time:	03/03/2007, 1100 PST	Registration:	N78DH
Aircraft:	Hirsch Thorp T-18	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The conventional gear airplane bounced two times after touchdown and nosed over. On the first bounce, the pilot added a small amount of power to allow the airplane to settle back onto the runway. However, the airplane bounced again, and he added full power in an attempt to go around and pushed forward on the control stick. The propeller then contacted the runway and the airplane nosed over. The pilot stated that there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions during the flight.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's improper bounced landing recovery and improper use of the flight controls that resulted in a porpoise and a nose over.

Findings

Occurrence #1: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (C) RECOVERY FROM BOUNCED LANDING - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) PORPOISE/PILOT-INDUCED OSCILLATION - NOT CORRECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. ABORTED LANDING - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) FLIGHT CONTROLS - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	61
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	284 hours (Total, all aircraft), 4 hours (Total, this make and model), 76 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Hirsch	Registration:	N78DH
Model/Series:	Thorp T-18	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-D25
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	SDM, 526 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	11 knots, 60°
Temperature:	21° C / -4° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	San Diego, CA (SDM)	Destination:	San Diego, CA

Airport Information

Airport:	BROWN FIELD MUNI (SDM)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt; Concrete
Runway Used:	8L	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	7972 ft / 150 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Patrick H Jones	Adopted Date:	05/29/2007
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
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/ .		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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.