



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Ashland, KY	Accident Number:	DEN08CA001
Date & Time:	10/02/2007, 1815 EDT	Registration:	N444PD
Aircraft:	Degelia Rotor Flight Dynamic	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot he was conducting touch and go landings. During the landing flare the nose of the gyroplane drifted to the right. The pilot reported that he was not able to compensate for the winds. The gyroplane impacted the runway with the left landing gear followed by the right landing gear. The gyroplane bounced and impacted the runway again, coming to rest on its side, resulting in minor damage. The pilot sustained serious injuries. The pilot reported winds 90 degrees to the runway at 10 to 15 miles per hour. An examination of the gyroplane's structure and systems revealed minor damage and no anomalies.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's failure to maintain aircraft control during the landing flare resulting in a hard landing. Contributing factors were the crosswind and the pilot's failure to recover from a bounced landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CROSSWIND

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

2. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) RECOVERY FROM BOUNCED LANDING - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	55, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Gyroplane	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/01/2004
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	07/01/2005
Flight Time:	91 hours (Total, all aircraft), 66 hours (Total, this make and model), 3 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Degelia	Registration:	N444PD
Model/Series:	Rotor Flight Dynamic	Aircraft Category:	Gyroplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	PD-1
Landing Gear Type:	Skid	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/01/2007, Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	672 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	68 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Bombardier-Rotax
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	Type 582
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	100 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KHTS	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	1751 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.09 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Ashland, KY (KDWU)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Ashland, KY (KDWU)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1800 EDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Ashland Regional Airport (DWU)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	546 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	28	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5602 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and Go

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	38.554444, -82.733611

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jennifer S Kaiser	Report Date:	11/29/2007
Additional Participating Persons:	Darrell Bandy; FAA Flight Standards District Office; Louisville, KY		
Publish Date:			
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 pubinquiry@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](#).