



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Gaithersburg, MD	Accident Number:	NYC08LA049
Date & Time:	12/01/2007, 1445 EST	Registration:	N259ER
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172N	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The 12-hour student pilot and the certificated flight instructor (CFI) were conducting their first flight together. The student had completed one takeoff, traffic pattern circuit, and landing, and initiated another takeoff in response to the CFI's instruction. After lift off, the airplane began to veer to the left, and despite verbal commands by the CFI, the drift and turn continued. The CFI then tried to physically intervene on the flight controls, but was initially resisted by the student. The CFI recognized that they could not avoid a treeline located 80 feet from the runway edge, so he leveled the wings and attempted to shut down the engine. The airplane impacted the trees approximately 10 feet above ground level. Subsequent to the accident, the CFI stated that he normally emphasized transfer of control in the preflight briefing, but he did not discuss that with this student. The surface weather observation reported winds of 5 knots. The accident was the fifth one in 24 years that involved the same treeline. While the treeline was coincident with the runway proximity limit specified in the advisory circular for airport design, the airport's 2002 improvement plan prescribed an increase in the distance between the treeline and the runway edge. As of July 2009, the treeline had not been relocated.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student pilot's failure to maintain aircraft control during an attempted touch-and-go. Contributing to the accident was the instructor's delay in taking remedial action, and the presence of trees in proximity to the side of the runway.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: GO-AROUND (VFR)

Findings

1. TOUCH-AND-GO - ATTEMPTED - DUAL STUDENT
 2. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - DUAL STUDENT
 3. (F) IMPROPER USE OF EQUIPMENT/AIRCRAFT - DUAL STUDENT
 4. (F) REMEDIAL ACTION - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND(CFI)
 5. (F) RELINQUISHING OF CONTROL - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: GO-AROUND (VFR)

Findings

6. (F) OBJECT - TREE(S)

Flight Instructor Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Commercial; Flight Engineer	Age:	42
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	6000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5000 hours (Total, this make and model), 6000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	25
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	12 hours (Total, all aircraft), 12 hours (Total, this make and model), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N259ER
Model/Series:	172N	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Washington Flying Club	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-AHM
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	GAI, 500 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 340°
Temperature:	4°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Gaithersburg, MD (GAI)	Destination:	Gaithersburg, MD (GAI)

Airport Information

Airport:	Montgomery County Airpark (GAI)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	32	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	4202 ft / 75 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	39.168333, -77.165000		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael C Huhn	Adopted Date:	11/09/2009
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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