



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Three Lakes, WI	Accident Number:	CHI08CA287
Date & Time:	09/01/2008, 1626 CDT	Registration:	N12809
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172M	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Sys/Comp malf/fail (non-power)	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane impacted trees after takeoff. The pilot reported that upon takeoff the airplane's door opened. He reported that he opened the window and attempted to close the door. He stated that he became distracted trying to close the door and the left wing of the airplane clipped trees. He stated that there were no mechanical difficulties with the airplane.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to attain sufficient altitude to avoid the trees during initial climb. Contributing to the accident were the pilot's failure to ensure the security of the entrance door before takeoff and the unintentional opening of the door.

Findings

Aircraft	Passenger/crew doors - Unintentional use/operation (Factor) Altitude - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Planning/preparation - Pilot (Factor) Incorrect action performance - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Sys/Comp malf/fail (non-power) (Defining event) Collision during takeoff/land
---------------	--

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	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 Medical Exam:	03/01/2007
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	250 hours (Total, all aircraft), 220 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N12809
Model/Series:	172M	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	17262279
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 SERIES
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility	
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:		Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:		Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Three Lakes, WI (40D)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Bolingbrook, IL (15C)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1626 CDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Three Lakes Municipal Airport (40D)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	21	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3400 ft / 120 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	John M Brannen	Adopted Date:	01/22/2009
Additional Participating Persons:	Darrell McCullion; FAA; Milwaukee, WI		
Publish Date:	09/10/2015		
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.