



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Three Lakes, WI	Accident Number:	CHI08CA287
Date & Time:	09/01/2008, 1626 CDT	Registration:	N12809
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172M	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.

Flight Events

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

Probable Cause

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-Aircraft structures-Doors-Passenger/crew doors-Unintentional use/operation - F
Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Altitude-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Planning/preparation-(general)-Pilot - F
Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Incorrect action performance-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Object/animal/substance-Tree(s)-Contributed to outcome

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Weather Information Source:	Unknown
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	
Temperature:		Visibility:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Three Lakes, WI (40D)	Destination:	Bolingbrook, IL (15C)

Airport Information

Airport:	Three Lakes Municipal Airport (40D)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	21	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:	3400 ft / 120 ft		

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	John M Brannen	Adopted Date:	01/22/2009
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/ .		

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