



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Venice, CA	Accident Number:	WPR10FA325
Date & Time:	07/01/2010, 1800 PDT	Registration:	N94838
Aircraft:	CESSNA 152	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

During the takeoff climb following a touch-and-go landing, the pilot communicated with a tower controller that he needed to return to the airport for landing, but did not indicate the type of problem. Witnesses observed the airplane make a 90-degree left turn and enter into a spiraling nose-dive before losing sight of it behind a tree line. The airplane subsequently impacted a copse of trees on a golf course. During the on-scene inspection, investigators identified all major flight controls of the airplane at the main wreckage area, and the smell of fuel was present at the accident site. The propeller separated from the propeller hub assembly and came to rest just forward of the main wreckage. One propeller blade had chordwise scratching with leading edge gouging; the other propeller blade was relatively undamaged. Both wings remained in their normal relative position and attached to the fuselage. The empennage section was twisted and folded over to the right. The tail section separated from the empennage, but remained attached via its control cables. All flight controls remained connected on site. The operator reported no mechanical problems in the weeks between the annual/100-hour inspections and the date of the accident. During the reconstruction investigators found no mechanical anomalies that would have precluded normal operation.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Loss of control in flight
Initial climb - Aerodynamic stall/spin
Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain adequate airspeed and airplane control during initial climb, which resulted in an aerodynamic stall/spin and subsequent impact with the ground.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Airspeed-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	60
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	309 hours (Total, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N94838
Model/Series:	152	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Justice Aviation	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming Engines
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-L2C
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	SMO, 177 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:	8 knots, 240°
Temperature:	19° C / 13° C	Visibility	9 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Santa Monica, CA (SMO)	Destination:	Santa Monica, CA (SMO)

Airport Information

Airport:	Santa Monica Muni Airport (SMO)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	21	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	4973 ft / 150 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Tealeye Cornejo	Adopted Date:	05/26/2011
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=76523		

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