



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Newfane, NY	Accident Number:	ERA10LA389
Date & Time:	08/01/2010, 1420 EDT	Registration:	N4976E
Aircraft:	CESSNA A185F	Injuries:	1 Fatal, 5 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Skydiving		

Analysis

The airplane was departing for a skydiving flight. During rotation, the jump door opened, which was located on the right side of the airplane. The pilot said that he was not concerned with the door, which would not have critically impacted the airplane's performance; however, an experienced parachutist attempted to secure the door to the point where he was partially outside of the airplane. The pilot attempted to stop the parachutist and became distracted, which resulted in the airplane veering left toward trees while flying at a low airspeed. The airplane subsequently struck a stand of trees and impacted the ground. The airplane came to rest inverted in a wooded area, with the roof of the cabin and empennage separated. Examination of the airplane did not reveal any mechanical malfunctions and the pilot reported that the airplane performed as expected, without any mechanical issues. One of the occupants noted that the jump door was checked prior to takeoff and appeared to be secured. The jump door separated during the accident and was found in the latched position. The jump door and surrounding structure were distorted due to impact damage.

Flight Events

Takeoff - Miscellaneous/other
Initial climb - 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 aircraft control due to his diverted attention, which resulted in a collision with trees during the initial climb after takeoff. Contributing to the accident was the passenger's attempt to secure the jump door after it opened during takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft structures-Doors-Passenger/crew doors-Not specified
Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-(general)-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-(general)-Passenger - F
Personnel issues-Psychological-Attention/monitoring-Attention-Pilot - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	68
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	3985 hours (Total, all aircraft), 559 hours (Total, this make and model), 3937 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 96 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N4976E
Model/Series:	A185F	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Frontier Skydivers	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-J2BD
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Skydiving		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	IAG, 589 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:	3 knots, 110°
Temperature:	28° C / 16° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Newfane, NY (85N)	Destination:	Newfane, NY (85N)

Airport Information

Airport:	Hollands International (85N)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	25	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2875 ft / 75 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal, 4 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Luke Schiada	Adopted Date:	06/27/2011
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=76810		

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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.

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