



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Incident Data Summary

Location:	Mount Pleasant, TX	Incident Number:	CEN10IA453
Date & Time:	08/01/2010, 1200 CDT	Registration:	N4184X
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-32R-301T	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was in level flight with the autopilot engaged when the airplane began an uncommanded roll. The pilot disengaged the autopilot and found that the airplane's ailerons were inoperative. The pilot made a successful landing using the rudder for directional and roll control. A postaccident examination of the airplane revealed that the right aileron primary control cable was severed where it contacted an idler pulley. That pulley would not rotate due to an out-of-tolerance idler pulley outer bearing that restricted the rotation of the pulley. It is likely that the control cable sliding against the seized pulley caused the cable to wear through. The airplane manufacturer issued a maintenance alert following this incident that highlighted the importance of proper and recurring inspections of the flight control cables and pulleys.

Flight Events

Enroute - Sys/Comp malf/fail (non-power)
Enroute - Inflight upset

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this incident to be:
The failure of an aileron control cable due to a seized idler pulley bearing.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft systems-Flight control system-Aileron control system-Failure - C
Aircraft-Aircraft systems-Flight control system-Aileron control system-Fatigue/wear/corrosion - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Private	Age:	23
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	644 hours (Total, all aircraft), 36 hours (Total, this make and model), 539 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 99 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 32 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N4184X
Model/Series:	PA-32R-301T	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	SOUTH CENTRAL LOGISTICS LLC	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	T10-540 SER
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	OSA	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Light and Variable, Variable
Temperature:	38°C / 18°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Gilmer, TX (JXI)	Destination:	Mount Pleasant, TX (OSA)

Airport Information

Airport:	Mt Pleasant Regional Airport (OSA)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Daniel Baker	Adopted Date:	06/28/2012
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=76815		

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