



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

|                                |                                      |                         |            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | Sparta, MI                           | <b>Accident Number:</b> | CEN11CA025 |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 10/01/2010, 2100 EDT                 | <b>Registration:</b>    | N759BJ     |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | CESSNA 182Q                          | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 None     |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                         |            |

## Analysis

Just after the airplane lifted off the runway surface during the night takeoff, the pilot observed two deer crossing the runway from left to right. He stated that one deer was in front of him and the other was to the left of his path. He pulled back on the yoke in an attempt to avoid the deer at which time he heard a loud "bang." The pilot reported that he missed the deer that he observed and contacted a third deer that he did not see. The pilot continued the flight to his destination where he made an uneventful landing. The injured deer was located at the departure airport. The right horizontal stabilizer and elevator sustained substantial damage.

## Flight Events

Takeoff - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:  
An inadvertent collision with a deer during a night takeoff.

## Findings

Environmental issues-Physical environment-Object/animal/substance-Animal(s)/bird(s)-Effect on operation - C

## Pilot Information

|                                  |   |                              |          |
|----------------------------------|---|------------------------------|----------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Private   | <b>Age:</b>                  | 58       |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Single-engine Land  | <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b> | Airplane |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | None  | <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b> | None     |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 568 hours (Total, all aircraft), 143 hours (Total, this make and model), 504 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft) |                              |          |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|   |                                      |                             |                 |
|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>             | CESSNA                               | <b>Registration:</b>        | N759BJ          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                      | 182Q                                 | <b>Engines:</b>             | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Operator:</b>                          | Kenneth A. Thompson                  | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b> | CONT MOTOR      |
| <b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b> | None                                 | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b> | O-470U          |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>            | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                             |                 |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|                                  |                                  |                              |                        |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | GRR, 794 ft msl                  | Weather Information Source:  | Pilot                  |
| Conditions at Accident Site:     | Visual Conditions                | Lowest Ceiling:              | Broken / 10000 ft agl  |
| Condition of Light:              | Night                            | Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: |                        |
| Temperature:                     | 16° C / 10° C                    | Visibility                   | 10 Miles               |
| Precipitation and Obscuration:   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |                              |                        |
| Departure Point:                 | Sparta, MI (8D4)                 | Destination:                 | Grand Rapids, MI (GRR) |

## Airport Information

|                      |                               |                           |         |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Airport:             | Miller - Sparta Airport (8D4) | Runway Surface Type:      | Asphalt |
| Runway Used:         | 25                            | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry     |
| Runway Length/Width: | 4033 ft / 75 ft               |                           |         |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

|                               |   |               |            |
|-------------------------------|---|---------------|------------|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Pamela S Sullivan   | Adopted Date: | 03/16/2011 |
| Note:                         | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.                             |               |            |
| Investigation Docket:         | <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=77622">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=77622</a> |               |            |

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