



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Sac City, IA	Accident Number:	CEN11CA065
Date & Time:	11/03/2010, 1700 CDT	Registration:	N475TW
Aircraft:	WELCH THOMAS RV9	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, the weather information he obtained en route indicated that the wind at his destination airport was from 300 degrees at 25 knots. The airplane encountered turbulence and wind gusts while on final approach and, despite the pilot's control inputs, the airplane impacted terrain off the right side of the runway. The wind reported 25 miles from the accident site, about 15 minutes after the accident, was from 310 degrees at 23 knots gusting to 33 knots. The wings, firewall, and fuselage sustained substantial damage.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's loss of directional control while landing with a gusting wind.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Turbulence - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Loss of control in flight (Defining event) Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	35, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	06/30/2008
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	06/05/2010
Flight Time:	305 hours (Total, all aircraft), 90 hours (Total, this make and model), 240 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 70 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 28 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	WELCH THOMAS	Registration:	N475TW
Model/Series:	RV9	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	90475
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	04/07/2010, Conditional	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	85 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	446 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	NSI
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	EJ25
Registered Owner:	Micheal L. Harmon, Jr.	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	Micheal L. Harmon, Jr.	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	CIN, 1204 ft msl	Observation Time:	2215 CDT
Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	165°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	15° C / -13° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	23 knots/ 33 knots, 310°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.09 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Effingham, IL (1H2)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Sac City, IA (SKI)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1400 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Sac City Municipal (SKI)	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Airport Elevation:	1250 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	32	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2350 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Pamela S Sullivan	Adopted Date:	04/12/2011
Additional Participating Persons:	Tom Clifton; FAA-DSM-FSDO; Des Moines, IA		
Publish Date:	04/12/2011		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=77773		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government 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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