



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Brownsville, TX	Accident Number:	CEN11CA215
Date & Time:	03/02/2011, 1245 CST	Registration:	N125GD
Aircraft:	Arion Aircraft LLC Lightning	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, he allowed the airplane's airspeed to decay on final approach. He noted that this resulted in a loss of control and a hard landing. The airplane sustained damage to both wing spars, the landing gear, and both ailerons during the landing. The pilot stated that there were no preimpact failures or malfunctions associated with the airplane.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain adequate airspeed on final approach, resulting in a loss of control and a hard landing.

Findings

Aircraft	Airspeed - Not attained/maintained (Cause) Performance/control parameters - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Lack of action - Pilot (Cause) Recent instruct/training recvd - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Loss of control in flight (Defining event) Abnormal runway contact Hard landing
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	69, 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 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	09/16/2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	08/08/2007
Flight Time:	600 hours (Total, all aircraft), 13 hours (Total, this make and model), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Arion Aircraft LLC	Registration:	N125GD
Model/Series:	Lightning LS-1	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Special Light-Sport	Serial Number:	105
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	12/27/2010, Conditional	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1320 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	35 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	36 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Jabiru
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	3300
Registered Owner:	Drussel Seed and Supply Inc	Rated Power:	120 hp
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KBRO, 22 ft msl	Observation Time:	1253 CST
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	360°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	25° C / 13° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots, Variable	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.11 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Brownsville, TX (BRO)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Brownsville, TX (BRO)	Type of Clearance:	VFR; VFR Flight Following
Departure Time:	1056 CST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Brownsville / S Padre Island (BRO)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	22 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	13R	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7399 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop

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):	Thomas Latson	Adopted Date:	06/08/2011
Additional Participating Persons:	Jesus M Cavazos; FAA San Antonio FSDO; San Antonio, TX		
Publish Date:	06/08/2011		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=78512		

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.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.