



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | San Antonio, TX                      | <b>Accident Number:</b> | CEN11CA257  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | 04/01/2011, 1415 CDT                 | <b>Registration:</b>    | N79286      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | CESSNA 172K                          | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         | Loss of control in flight            | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 1 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General Aviation - Personal |                         |             |

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## Analysis

The student pilot lost directional control of the airplane while landing in gusty wind conditions. The airplane bounced, and touched back down in the grass alongside of the runway, before the left wing impacted a tree. The airplane's wings and fuselage sustained substantial damage. The closest weather reporting station was located 15 nautical miles to the southeast of the accident site. Twenty minutes before the accident, the reported wind was from 190 degrees at 12 knots, gusting to 18 knots. The student pilot further reported that there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student pilot's inadequate compensation for wind while landing in gusty wind conditions.

## Findings

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|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Aircraft</b> | Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause) |
|-----------------|---|

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Landing-flare/touchdown</b> | Abnormal runway contact<br>Loss of control in flight (Defining event)<br>Runway excursion<br>Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) |
|--------------------------------|---|

### Student Pilot Information

|                                  |  |  |                            |
|----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Student  | <b>Age:</b>                              | 22, Male                   |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | None   | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Left                       |
| <b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b> | None   | <b>Restraint Used:</b>                   | Seatbelt, Shoulder harness |
| <b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>     | None   | <b>Second Pilot Present:</b>             | No                         |
| <b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>     | None   | <b>Toxicology Performed:</b>             | No                         |
| <b>Medical Certification:</b>    | Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations  | <b>Last Medical Exam:</b>                | 02/18/2011                 |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | No   | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> |                            |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 14 hours (Total, all aircraft), 14 hours (Total, this make and model), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft) |  |                            |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |                          |   |                 |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>        | CESSNA                   | <b>Registration:</b>                      | N79286          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | 172K                     | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>                 | Airplane        |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |                          | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                     | No              |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    | Normal                   | <b>Serial Number:</b>                     | 17258023        |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Tricycle                 | <b>Seats:</b>                             | 4               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | Unknown                  | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>           |                 |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   |                          | <b>Engines:</b>                           | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          |                          | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>               | LYCOMING        |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Installed, not activated | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>               | O-320 SERIES    |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | ALAMO AERODYNE INC       | <b>Rated Power:</b>                       | 180 hp          |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     | ALAMO AERODYNE INC       | <b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b> | None            |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|                                  |                                  |                              |                   |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Observation Facility, Elevation: |                                  | Observation Time:            |                   |
| Distance from Accident Site:     |                                  | Condition of Light:          | Day               |
| Direction from Accident Site:    |                                  | Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions |
| Lowest Cloud Condition:          | Clear                            | Temperature/Dew Point:       | 30° C / 14° C     |
| Lowest Ceiling:                  | None                             | Visibility                   | 10 Miles          |
| Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:     | 12 knots/ 18 knots, 190°         | Visibility (RVR):            |                   |
| Altimeter Setting:               | 29.8 inches Hg                   | Visibility (RVV):            |                   |
| Precipitation and Obscuration:   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |                              |                   |
| Departure Point:                 | Boerne, TX (5C1)                 | Type of Flight Plan Filed:   | None              |
| Destination:                     | San Antonio, TX (8T8)            | Type of Clearance:           | None              |
| Departure Time:                  | 1345 CDT                         | Type of Airspace:            |                   |

## Airport Information

|                      |                            |                           |                 |
|----------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| Airport:             | San Geronimo Airpark (8T8) | Runway Surface Type:      | Asphalt         |
| Airport Elevation:   |                            | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry             |
| Runway Used:         | 17                         | IFR Approach:             | None            |
| Runway Length/Width: | 3000 ft / 40 ft            | VFR Approach/Landing:     | 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):     | Timothy LeBaron   | Adopted Date: | 08/11/2011 |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Victor Lopez; Federal Aviation Administration; San Antonio, TX  |               |            |
| Publish Date:                     | 08/11/2011  |               |            |
| 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=78735">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=78735</a> |               |            |

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