National Transportation Safety Board
Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Moultonboro, NH	**Accident Number:**	ERA11CA303
Date & Time:	05/01/2011, 1600 EDT	**Registration:**	N61980
Aircraft:	CHAMPION 7EC-703	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	**Injuries:**	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during the landing rollout, a strong wind gust caused him to lose directional control of the airplane. The airplane veered off of the runway and collided with trees. During the accident sequence, the airplane incurred substantial damage to the wing spars. A witness at the airport confirmed the weather anomaly at the time of the accident. The nearest airport's weather observation system reported at the time of the accident that the wind was light and variable.

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 during the landing rollout, which resulted in a collision with trees.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Task performance - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Sudden wind shift - Effect on operation (Cause) Gusts - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	**Age:**	60, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	**Seat Occupied:**	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	**Restraint Used:**	
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:**	06/29/2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	
Flight Time:	2340 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1575 hours (Total, this make and model), 22 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CHAMPION	**Registration:**	N61980
Model/Series:	7EC-703	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		**Amateur Built:**	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	**Serial Number:**	7EC-703
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	3
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	05/10/2010, Annual	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	1650 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	31 Hours	**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	8314 Hours	**Engine Manufacturer:**	Continental
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	**Engine Model/Series:**	C90
Registered Owner:	HIRSCHFIELD ROBERT J	**Rated Power:**	100 hp
Operator:	HIRSCHFIELD ROBERT J	**Air Carrier Operating Certificate:**	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	LCI, 545 ft msl	**Observation Time:**	1555 EDT
Distance from Accident Site:	11 Nautical Miles	**Condition of Light:**	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	187°	**Conditions at Accident Site:**	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	17°C / 4°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	**Visibility**	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Light and Variable, Variable	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Altimeter Setting:	30.24 inches Hg	**Visibility (RVV):**	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Laconia, NH (LCI)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	None
Destination:	Moultonboro, NH (5M3)	**Type of Clearance:**	VFR
Departure Time:	1530 EDT	**Type of Airspace:**	

Airport Information

Airport:	Moultonboro Airport (5M3)	**Runway Surface Type:**	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	571 ft	**Runway Surface Condition:**	Dry
Runway Used:	02	**IFR Approach:**	Visual
Runway Length/Width:	3475 ft / 50 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):	Eric Alleyne	**Adopted Date:**	10/17/2011
Additional Participating Persons:	James Mills; FAA/FSDO; Portland, ME		
Publish Date:	10/17/2011		
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=79149		

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