



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Watsonville, CA	Accident Number:	WPR13CA033
Date & Time:	11/02/2012, 1645 PDT	Registration:	N77227
Aircraft:	CESSNA 140	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that after a normal approach, he landed the tailwheel-equipped airplane on the main wheels (wheel landing). As the airplane decelerated during the landing roll, the pilot directed his attention inside of the cockpit and eased back pressure off of the control yoke. When the pilot redirected his attention outside, the airplane nosed down, and the propeller struck the ground; the airplane nosed over and came to rest inverted. During the accident sequence, the wings and empennage were substantially damaged. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions that would have precluded normal operation.

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 airplane control during the landing roll.

Findings

Aircraft	Pitch control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Nose over/nose down
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	63, 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:	01/16/2012
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	11/02/2012
Flight Time:	700 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N77227
Model/Series:	140	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	11689
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	11/01/2012, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1450 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	3 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	C85 SERIES
Registered Owner:	Russell Ellingworth	Rated Power:	85 hp
Operator:	Russell Ellingworth	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	WVI, 163 ft msl	Observation Time:	1653 PDT
Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	18°C / 9°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	King City, CA (KIC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Watsonville, CA (WVI)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1600 PDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Watsonville Municipal Airport (WVI)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	163 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	20	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4501 ft / 149 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jefferey R Rich	Adopted Date:	02/27/2013
Additional Participating Persons:	Greg J Minarik; Federal Aviation Administration; San Jose, CA		
Publish Date:	02/27/2013		
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=85512		

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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