



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Incident Data Summary

Location:	Atlanta, GA	Incident Number:	ERA15IA009
Date & Time:	10/01/2014, 2105 EDT	Registration:	N301EF
Aircraft:	FUNK RALPH Velocity XLRG	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The purpose of the flight was to perform three takeoffs and landings at night. The pilot stated that the first takeoff and landing was uneventful and that, at touchdown, he used aerodynamic braking to slow the airplane by keeping its nose off the runway as long as possible. He added that the second landing was faster, that more runway was used, and that the nose landing gear (NLG) touched down “harder” than during the first landing. After the NLG touched down, the airplane pulled right and developed a shimmy. The pilot subsequently lost directional control of the airplane, and the NLG collapsed. Examination of the fracture surfaces on the NLG revealed features consistent with ductile overstress fracture. The overall fracture pattern was consistent with fracture under a lateral bending load.

Flight Events

Landing-flare/touchdown - Hard landing
Landing-flare/touchdown - Landing gear collapse

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this incident to be:
The pilot’s failure to maintain directional control during a hard landing, which resulted in the fracture of the nose landing gear.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Directional control-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	926 hours (Total, all aircraft), 774 hours (Total, this make and model), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	FUNK RALPH	Registration:	N301EF
Model/Series:	Velocity XLRG	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-550 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	RYY, 1040 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Night/Dark	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm
Temperature:	20°C / 15°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Atlanta, GA (RYY)	Destination:	Atlanta, GA (RYY)

Airport Information

Airport:	COBB COUNTY-MC COLLUM FIELD (RYY)	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Runway Used:	09	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	6295 ft / 100 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Brian C Rayner	Adopted Date:	12/14/2015
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this incident.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=90220		

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