



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Everglades City, FL	Accident Number:	ERA15CA042
Date & Time:	11/03/2014, 1215 EST	Registration:	N696PT
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172M	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

According to the student pilot, he was performing a full stop landing from the left seat with his instructor in the right seat. During the flare, a sudden gust of wind "pushed the airplane to the left" and the instructor took the controls. The instructor pilot also reported that a sudden, heavy gust of wind was encountered, and the airplane "started ballooning up" and turned "drastically" to the left. The instructor attempted a go-around; however, the airplane was already at low altitude and it collided with the ground. The airplane impacted hard on the grassy area adjacent to the runway, breaking off the nose gear. Federal Aviation Administration inspectors reported that substantial damage resulted to the airframe's left and right wings. The instructor pilot reported that there were no mechanical problems with the airplane at the time of the accident. Although there was no weather reporting capability at the landing airport, gusting wind conditions were reported about 18 miles to the northwest.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student pilot's failure to compensate for gusting wind conditions during the flare, and the flight instructor's failure to intervene in a timely manner, resulting in a loss of airplane control and hard landing off of the runway.

Findings

Aircraft	Landing flare - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Student pilot (Cause) Delayed action - Instructor/check pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Gusts - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Other weather encounter Loss of control in flight (Defining event) Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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Flight Instructor Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	30
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	03/10/2010
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	04/14/2014
Flight Time:	584 hours (Total, all aircraft), 244 hours (Total, this make and model), 505 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 221 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	20
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	07/27/2014
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	40 hours (Total, all aircraft), 40 hours (Total, this make and model), 29 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CESSNA	Registration:	N696PT
Model/Series:	172M	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17265667
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/01/2014, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2299 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4777 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	0-320 SERIES
Registered Owner:	PILOT TRAINING CENTER LLC	Rated Power:	150 hp
Operator:	PILOT TRAINING CENTER LLC	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MKY, 5 ft msl	Observation Time:	1215 EST
Distance from Accident Site:	18 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	300°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C / 12° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots/ 14 knots, 40°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.28 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Miami, FL (TMB)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Everglades City, FL (X01)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1115 EST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Everglades Airpark (X01)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	33	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2400 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Ralph E Hicks

Adopted Date: 02/11/2015

Additional Participating Persons:

Publish Date: 02/11/2015

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=90352>

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