



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Clermont, FL	Accident Number:	ERA15CA143
Date & Time:	03/01/2015, 1235 EST	Registration:	N717ML
Aircraft:	PIPER J3C 65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Landing area overshoot	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was landing his airplane at his residence, on a 5-acre grass field, at the conclusion of a local, sightseeing flight. He landed long and could not stop the airplane before it collided with a security fence at an adjacent residence. A Federal Aviation Administration inspector reported that the right wing and fuselage sustained substantial damage. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical problems with the airplane at the time of the accident. The pilot reported 4,000 hours total time; however had accrued only 15 hours in the accident airplane and received a tail wheel endorsement about 3 weeks prior to the accident.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to land the airplane within the desired touchdown zone, resulting in a long landing and collision with a fence.

Findings

Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Use of equip/system - Pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Landing area overshoot (Defining event) Collision during takeoff/land
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	67
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	10/22/2014
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	02/09/2015
Flight Time:	4000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 15 hours (Total, this make and model), 4000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 50 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 20 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N717ML
Model/Series:	J3C 65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	22411
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/17/2014, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1170 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5800 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	C85-8FJ
Registered Owner:	David Harmon	Rated Power:	85 hp
Operator:	David Harmon	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	LEE, 76 ft msl	Observation Time:	1253 EST
Distance from Accident Site:	20 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	330°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C / 19° C
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2200 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots, 40°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.35 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Clermont, FL (None)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Clermont, FL (None)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1200 EST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	None (None)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	200 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	N/A	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		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):	Ralph E Hicks	Adopted Date:	08/11/2015
Additional Participating Persons:	Larry A Penland; FAA/FSDO; Orlando, FL		
Publish Date:	08/11/2015		
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=90808		

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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