



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Dunkirk, NY	Accident Number:	ERA15LA269
Date & Time:	07/16/2015, 1115 EDT	Registration:	N6047W
Aircraft:	CESSNA AIRCRAFT CO 162	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the light sport airplane had completed two touch-and-go takeoffs and landings in the airport traffic pattern. During the third takeoff, the right door opened at an altitude about 400 ft above ground level. Seated in the left seat, the pilot attempted to reach across the cockpit and close the door, but could not reach the handle. He stated that the airplane "did not want to fly," and "began to sink" before it impacted trees. A witness stated that the airplane was in an "aggressive" nose-up attitude just before impact.

Postaccident examination of the airplane, including the right door latch, revealed no anomalies that would have precluded normal operation. The pilot's operating handbook for the airplane stated that, in the event of a door opening in flight, the pilot should not attempt to close the door and should land normally as soon as practical. It is likely that the pilot became distracted by the open door during flight, and, in his attempt to close the door at low altitude, the airplane became too slow, exceeded its critical angle of attack, and experienced an aerodynamic stall.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Miscellaneous/other
Initial climb - Aerodynamic stall/spin

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to maintain control of the airplane while attempting to close an open cabin door, which resulted in the airplane exceeding its critical angle of attack and experiencing an aerodynamic stall.

Findings

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-Decision making/judgment-Pilot - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C
Personnel issues-Psychological-Attention/monitoring-Attention-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	66
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 420 hours (Total, all aircraft), 90 hours (Total, this make and model), 300 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA AIRCRAFT CO	Registration:	N6047W
Model/Series:	162	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-200
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KDKK, 693 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots / , 60°
Temperature:	21 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Dunkirk, NY (DKK)	Destination:	Dunkirk, NY (DKK)

Airport Information

Airport:	Chautauqua County/Dunkirk (DKK)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	06	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	6000 ft / 100 ft		

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
Latitude, Longitude:	42.515833, -79.259167 (est)		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Allison N Diaz	Adopted Date:	03/23/2017
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=91571		

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