



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Kinder, LA	Accident Number:	GAA16CA175
Date & Time:	04/03/2016, 1230 CDT	Registration:	N9611S
Aircraft:	CHAMPION 7ECA	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Abnormal runway contact	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane, after performing a local flight, he made a normal approach to a dirt and grass covered airstrip. He reported that he executed a wheel landing and the airplane veered left of the airstrip heading as the left main landing gear began to sink into the mud. The airplane struck a barbed wire fence and came to rest nose down in a water filled ditch. The pilot reported that he shut off the aircraft systems and he and his passenger exited the airplane; however, he reported that he did see fuel leaking from the fuel tanks as a result of the angle at which the airplane came to rest. The pilot recounted that as he and his passenger were walking away from the airplane they heard the fuel ignite and the airplane became engulfed with flames. The airplane sustained substantial fire damage to the wings and fuselage.

The pilot reported that there were no mechanical failures or anomalies with the airplane prior to or during the flight that would have prevented normal flight operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's selection of an unsuitable landing area, resulting in a loss of directional control during landing, an airstrip excursion, impact with a fence and the subsequent airplane fire.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause) Identification/recognition - Pilot (Cause) Decision making/judgment - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Fence/fence post - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Abnormal runway contact (Defining event) Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) Runway excursion Nose over/nose down
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	62, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
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:	02/25/2015
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	04/13/2015
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 698 hours (Total, all aircraft), 40 hours (Total, this make and model), 639 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CHAMPION	Registration:	N9611S
Model/Series:	7ECA NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	82
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	08/22/2015, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1650 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3206.6 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL MOTOR COMPANY
ELT:	C91 installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-200-A
Registered Owner:	Jerry D. Barnhill	Rated Power:	100 hp
Operator:	Jerry D. Barnhill	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KCWF, 17 ft msl	Observation Time:	1655 UTC
Distance from Accident Site:	29 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	268°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 2°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots, 130°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.27 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Jennings, LA (3R7)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Kinder, LA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1200 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael A Hicks	Adopted Date:	06/01/2016
Additional Participating Persons:	Cory T Morara; Federal Aviation Administration; Baton Rouge, LA		
Publish Date:	06/01/2016		
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=92954		

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