



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Pittsfield, MA	Accident Number:	GAA16CA515
Date & Time:	09/25/2016, 1145 EDT	Registration:	N73101
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The solo student pilot reported that on final, following a cross-country flight, "It was really bumpy", the airplane was at a "pretty steep angle", and the stall warning horn was "really going crazy". He further reported that he tried to avoid a stall, and lowered the nose of the airplane, and the airplane touched down to the left of the runway unexpectedly. The airplane continued to the left of the runway and impacted a ditch.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage.

The student pilot reported no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

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 maintain an appropriate descent rate and runway alignment during the landing flare, which resulted in the airplane touching down left of the runway and impacting a ditch.

Findings

Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Student pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Terrain - Effect on equipment Crosswind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Other weather encounter Loss of control in flight (Defining event) Attempted remediation/recovery Loss of control on ground Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	39, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap Only
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	07/26/2016
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 42 hours (Total, all aircraft), 41 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N73101
Model/Series:	172 M	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1976	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17267266
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2299 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-320 SERIES
Registered Owner:	PERSAUD MUNIDAT	Rated Power:	160 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PSF, 1194 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1554 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	315°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	12 knots / 22 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	290°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.19 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13° C / 1° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	OXFORD, CT (OXC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Pittsfield, MA (PSF)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	1100 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	PITTSFIELD MUNI (PSF)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1188 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	26	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5791 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Stop and Go

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	42.427500, -73.292500 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jackie L Vanover	Report Date:	02/06/2017
Additional Participating Persons:	Daniel Ballou; FAA; Enfield, CT		
Publish Date:	02/06/2017		
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=94097		

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.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).