



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Timberlake, NC	Accident Number:	GAA17CA206
Date & Time:	03/23/2017, 1530 EDT	Registration:	N3947R
Aircraft:	CESSNA 172	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The solo student pilot reported that, during the landing flare, he "felt a big push from behind," which resulted in a propeller strike and substantial damage to the fuselage.

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

A review of recorded data from the automated weather observation station located on the airport revealed that, at the time of the accident, the wind was from 190° at 3 knots. The airplane landed on runway 6.

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 pitch control during the landing flare with a tailwind, which resulted in a propeller strike.

Findings

Aircraft	Pitch control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Student pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Tailwind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
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Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	57, 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 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/22/2015
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 129 hours (Total, all aircraft), 28 hours (Total, this make and model), 11 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 13 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N3947R
Model/Series:	172 H	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1966	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	17255447
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/27/2017, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2600 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-300-D
Registered Owner:	KELLY SITE DEVELOPMENT LLC.	Rated Power:	145 hp
Operator:	S&C Aviation of NC, LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KTDF, 609 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1930 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	230°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	190°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.55 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	11 °C / -7 °C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Roxboro, NC (TDF)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Roxboro, NC (TDF)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1515 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	PERSON COUNTY (TDF)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	608 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	6	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6005 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and Go

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	Latitude, Longitude:	36.286389, -78.981944 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jackie L Vanover	Report Date:	10/17/2017
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael T Bevan; FAA; Baltimore, MD		
Publish Date:	10/17/2017		
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=94916		

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](#).