



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Arlington, WA	Accident Number:	GAA19CA517
Date & Time:	08/20/2019, 0950 PDT	Registration:	N180TB
Aircraft:	Cessna 180	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, before takeoff, he adjusted his seat. During takeoff, his seat slid back, and he was not able to reach the rudder pedals or throttle lever. The airplane accelerated, veered left, exited the runway to the left, ground looped, and impacted a berm. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 pilot's failure to properly secure the seat before takeoff, which resulted in it sliding back during takeoff and rendering him unable to reach the rudder pedals and throttle lever, a subsequent runway excursion, ground loop, and impact with a berm.

Findings

Aircraft	Seat/cargo attach fitting - Incorrect use/operation (Cause) Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Use of equip/system - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Sloped/uneven terrain - Effect on operation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Miscellaneous/other Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Flight Engineer	Age:	60, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Waiver Time Limited Special	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/16/2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 28246 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1706 hours (Total, this make and model), 20942 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 240 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 105 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N180TB
Model/Series:	180 F	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1963	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18051273
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2650 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3512.2 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental PPNK conversation
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-47050
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	235 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:	KAWO, 137 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1656 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	34°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.95 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	19° C / 13° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Arlington, WA (AWO)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Langley, WA (W10)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0950 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Arlington Muni (AWO)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	141 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	34	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5332 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	48.160833, -122.159167 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eleazar Nepomuceno	Report Date:	03/17/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Mark Brock; FAA; Des Moines, WA		
Publish Date:	03/17/2020		
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=100135		

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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