



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Molokai, HI	Accident Number:	WPR14CA129
Date & Time:	02/27/2014, 1947 HST	Registration:	N947MZ
Aircraft:	PARTENAVIA S.P.A. P 68 OBSERVER	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision during takeoff/land	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot stated that the flight was conducted at night and he used his GPS track to align with the runway. When the pilot activated the runway lights, the airplane was about 1/4 mile to the left of the runway and 1/2 mile from the approach end. The pilot made an aggressive right turn then hard left turn to make the runway for landing. While maneuvering on short final, at 50 feet above ground level (agl), the airplane's right wing impacted the tops of a number of trees that lined the southeast side of the runway. The airplane descended rapidly and landed hard, collapsing the landing gear and spinning the airplane around 180 degrees laterally, where it came to rest against some trees. The right wing's impact with trees and the hard landing resulted in substantial damage.

The pilot reported no preimpact 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 inadequate decision to continue an unstable approach in dark night conditions, which resulted in a collision with trees and hard landing.

Findings

Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome Dark - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach-VFR pattern final	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) Attempted remediation/recovery Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	79
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	11/08/2013
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	4433 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1716 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PARTENAVIA S.P.A.	Registration:	N947MZ
Model/Series:	P 68 OBSERVER C	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	316-12/OB
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	7
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	05/01/2013, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	8831 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-360-A1B6
Registered Owner:	AFFORDABLE CASKET OUTLET LLC	Rated Power:	200
Operator:	Paragon Inc	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PHMK	Distance from Accident Site:	9 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	HST	Direction from Accident Site:	90°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Honolulu, HI (PHNL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Molokai, HI (HI49)	Type of Clearance:	VFR Flight Following
Departure Time:	1915 HST	Type of Airspace:	Class E; Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Panda Airport (HI49)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	250 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	07	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1920 ft / 55 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

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:	21.311667, -157.916667 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Van McKenny	Report Date:	06/18/2014
Additional Participating Persons:	Joseph Monfort; Federal Aviation Administration; Honolulu, HI		
Publish Date:	07/09/2015		
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=88870		

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