



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Battle Creek, MI	Accident Number:	CEN12CA215
Date & Time:	03/27/2012, 0730 EDT	Registration:	N1212C
Aircraft:	CESSNA 441	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Landing gear collapse	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Executive/Corporate		

Analysis

After the pilot finished the preflight inspection in the hangar, the maintenance technician pulled the airplane out of the hangar and connected the auxiliary power cart to the airplane. Shortly thereafter, the pilot boarded the airplane and proceeded with the normal checklist. The pilot signaled to the maintenance technician to disconnect the power cart. The maintenance technician subsequently signaled that the pilot was clear to start the engines. After departure, the pilot noted a problem with the landing gear, and, after establishing that the tow bar was, most likely, still attached to the nosewheel, he diverted to a nearby airport for a precautionary landing. During the landing, the nose landing gear collapsed and the primary structure in the nose of the airplane was substantially damaged.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The maintenance technician did not remove the tow bar prior to the flight.

Findings

Personnel issues	Forgotten action/omission - Maintenance personnel (Cause)
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Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Landing gear collapse (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	69, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	10/31/2011
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	04/30/2011
Flight Time:	20154 hours (Total, all aircraft), 13000 hours (Total, this make and model), 18000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 176 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 60 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N1212C
Model/Series:	441	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	441-0346
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	9
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/13/2012, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	9850 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	12499 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Honeywell
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TPE331-10N-51
Registered Owner:	BIL MAR FOODS INC DBA	Rated Power:	135 hp
Operator:	BIL MAR FOODS INC DBA	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KBTL, 952 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	0753 EDT	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	130°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	0°C / -7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Muskegon, MI (KMKG)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Battle Creek, MI (KBTL)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	0630 EDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	W K Kellogg Airport (KBTL)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	952 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	23R	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	10004 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Precautionary Landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	42.306389, -85.250000 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jennifer Rodi	Report Date:	05/21/2012
Additional Participating Persons:	Tom Kozura; FAA Flight Standards District Office; Grand Rapids, MI		
Publish Date:	01/31/2018		
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=83252		

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](#).