



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	CRYSTAL CITY, TX	Accident Number:	FTW87FA174
Date & Time:	07/24/1987, 1700 CDT	Registration:	N448
Aircraft:	CESSNA 421C	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT LANDED DOWNWIND ON HIS PRIVATE STRIP. THE EXACT AMOUNT OF THE TAILWIND COULD NOT BE DETERMINED. A THUNDERSTORM WAS LOCATED JUST TO THE EAST OF THE RUNWAY AND COULD HAVE READILY GIVEN N448 A STRONG TAILWIND. THE AIRCRAFT TOUCHED DOWN 390 FEET BEYOND THE THRESHOLD. LIGHT BRAKING ACTION WAS EVIDENT FROM THAT POINT UP TO A POINT 400 FEET FROM A HANGAR WHERE ALL TIRE MARKS DISAPPEARED. THE AIRCRAFT COLLIDED WITH THE HANGAR, WHICH WAS BUILT AT THE END OF AND ACROSS THE RUNWAY, APPROXIMATELY 10 FEET ABOVE THE RUNWAY SURFACE AND WAS DESTROYED BY THE SUBSEQUENT POST CRASH FIRE.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ABORTED

Findings

1. (F) OBJECT - BUILDING(NONRESIDENTIAL)
2. (C) BRAKES(NORMAL) - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) ABORTED LANDING - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (F) DISTANCE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - TAILWIND
6. (C) WRONG RUNWAY - SELECTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: FIRE
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	72, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	Yes
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	06/25/1987
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	11000 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CESSNA	Registration:	N448
Model/Series:	421C 421C	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	421C1034
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	02/16/1987, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	95 Hours	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1375 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	GTSIO-520-N
Registered Owner:	HAYDEN W. HEAD	Rated Power:	375 hp
Operator:	HAYDEN W. HEAD	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	COT, 471 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	40 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1649 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	120°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 4000 ft agl	Visibility	15 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 12000 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	90°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	30° C / 20° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BEAUMONT, TX	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	(8R4)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	H & F RANCHSTRIP (8R4)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	640 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	25	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3000 ft / 30 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ARMOND EDWARDS	Report Date:	11/29/1988
Additional Participating Persons:	MICHAEL A MARTIN; SAN ANTONIO, TX		
Publish Date:			
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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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](#).