

National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location: Rhinelander, Wisconsin Accident Number: CEN20CA119

Date & Time: March 5, 2020, 08:15 Local Registration: N706FX

Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Wrong surface or wrong airport **Injuries:** 1 Serious

Flight Conducted

Under: Part 135: Air taxi & commuter - Non-scheduled

Analysis

The pilot reported that, upon reaching the decision altitude on a GPS instrument approach, he saw the runway end identifier lights and continued the approach. Shortly after, the lights disappeared and then reappeared. He continued the approach and landing thinking the airplane was lined up with the runway by using the runway edge lights for reference. Upon touching down about 225 ft left of the runway, the airplane dug into snow and flipped over, which resulted in substantial damage to the wings and tail. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures 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 improper decision to continue an instrument approach to landing following a loss of visual reference with the runway, which resulted in the airplane touching down left of the runway in snow and flipping over.

Findings

Personnel issues Decision making/judgment - Pilot

Personnel issues Perception - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing Loss of visual reference

Landing-flare/touchdown Wrong surface or wrong airport (Defining event)

Landing-flare/touchdown Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

| Certificate: | Commercial; Flight instructor | Age: | 45,Male |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| Airplane Rating(s): | Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land | Seat Occupied: | Left |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | Unknown |
| Instrument Rating(s): | Airplane | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | Airplane single-engine | Toxicology Performed: | No |
| Medical Certification: | Class 2 Without waivers/limitations | Last FAA Medical Exam: | July 18, 2019 |
| Occupational Pilot: | Yes | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | January 30, 2020 |
| Flight Time: | 7245 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3684 hours (Total, this make and model), 6109 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 27 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

| Aircraft Make: | Cessna | Registration: | N706FX |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Model/Series: | 208 B | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | 1995 | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | 208B0426 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tricycle | Seats: | 2 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | January 21, 2020 100 hour | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 8752 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | 64 Hrs | Engines: | 1 Turbo prop |
| Airframe Total Time: | 11458 Hrs at time of accident | Engine Manufacturer: | Pratt & Whitney |
| ELT: | C126 installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series: | PT6A SER |
| Registered Owner: | | Rated Power: | 675 Horsepower |
| Operator: | | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | Commuter air carrier (135) |
| | | | |

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Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

| Conditions at Accident Site: | Instrument (IMC) | Condition of Light: | Day |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | KRHI,1624 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 0 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 13:32 Local | Direction from Accident Site: | 186° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | | Visibility | 0.75 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | Overcast / 400 ft AGL | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 10 knots / | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | None / None |
| Wind Direction: | 180° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | N/A / N/A |
| Altimeter Setting: | 29.69 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 1°C / -1°C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | Moderate - Blowing - Snow | | |
| Departure Point: | Milwaukee, WI (MKE) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | IFR |
| Destination: | Rhinelander, WI (RHI) | Type of Clearance: | IFR |
| Departure Time: | | Type of Airspace: | Class E |

Airport Information

| Airport: | Rhinelander-Oneida County RHI | Runway Surface Type: | Concrete |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Airport Elevation: | 1623 ft msl | Runway Surface Condition: | Snow |
| Runway Used: | 27 | IFR Approach: | Global positioning system |
| Runway Length/Width: | 6799 ft / 150 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | None |

Wreckage and Impact Information

| Crew Injuries: | 1 Serious | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
|------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Passenger Injuries: | | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 1 Serious | Latitude, Longitude: | 45.631389,-89.481941 |

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Administrative Information

| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Williams, David |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Additional Participating Persons: | Jon Westin; FAA; Milwaukee, WI |
| Original Publish Date: | June 29, 2020 |
| Note: | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB. |
| Investigation Docket: | https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101066 |

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.

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