



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	HOUSTON, TX	Accident Number:	FTW87LA205
Date & Time:	08/19/1987, 2000 CDT	Registration:	N11249
Aircraft:	BEECH RC-45J	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Personal

Analysis

THE PILOT WAS PRACTICING LANDINGS, ALMOST TO A FULL STOP, WHEN THE ACCIDENT OCCURRED. HE HAD ASKED A COMMERCIAL PILOT TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON THIS FLIGHT. THE PLT STATED THAT ON THE FOURTH LANDING THE LEFT MAIN GEAR WENT SLIGHTLY OFF THE LEFT EDGE OF THE RUNWAY AND WHEN THE PLT CORRECTED, THE AIRCRAFT SEEMED TO JUMP OR BOUNCE AND ENTERED A SKID TO THE RIGHT WHICH WAS COMPLETELY UNCONTROLLABLE. AFTER THE ACCIDENT THE TAIL WHEEL WAS FOUND IN THE UNLOCKED POSITION AND WAS SWIVELED TO A POSITION FOR A HARD RIGHT TURN EVEN THOUGH THE LOCKING PIN WAS IN THE LOCKED POSITION. APPARENTLY THE TAIL WHEEL BECAME UNLOCKED DURING OR AFTER THE THIRD LANDING DUE TO EXCESS WEAR ON THE PIN AND/OR THE PIN HOLE AND BECAME COCKED SO THAT DIRECTIONAL CONTROL WAS LOST WHEN THE TAIL WHEEL TOUCHED DOWN.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

1. (C) LANDING GEAR, TAILWHEEL LOCK - WORN
2. (F) MAINTENANCE, ANNUAL INSPECTION - POOR - OTHER MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL
3. (C) LANDING GEAR, TAILWHEEL LOCK - FAILURE, TOTAL
4. (F) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: MAIN GEAR COLLAPSED

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN
6. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH
7. (F) LANDING GEAR, MAIN GEAR - OVERLOAD

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	39, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	05/06/1987
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	3000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BEECH	Registration:	N11249
Model/Series:	RC-45J RC-45J	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	23801
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tailwheel	Seats:	10
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	8625 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	R-985
Registered Owner:	JACK A SHARPE	Rated Power:	450 hp
Operator:	FRANK BELL	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	DWH, 150 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1950 CDT	Direction from Accident Site:	10°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Thin Broken / 25000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	32° C / 22° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	HOUSTON, TX (T17)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	WEISER (T17)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	139 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	9	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3467 ft / 40 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and Go; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	J O JOHNSON	Adopted Date:	11/08/1988
Additional Participating Persons:	PAUL ALLEN; HOUSTON, 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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