

Brief of Accident

Adopted 12/27/2011

CEN12CA030
File No. 29309 10/17/2011 Covington ,LA Aircraft Reg No. N2401E Time (Local): 18:20 CDT

Make/Model: Cessna/172N
Engine Make/Model: Lycoming / O-360
Aircraft Damage: Substantial
Number of Engines: 1
Operating Certificate(s): None
Type of Flight Operation: Banner Tow
Reg. Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation

	Fatal	Serious	Minor/None
Crew	0	0	1
Pass	0	0	0

Last Depart. Point: Same as Accident/Incident Location
Destination: Local Flight, LA
Airport Proximity: On Airport/Airstrip
Airport Name: Saint Tammany Regional
Runway Identification: 18
Runway Length/Width (Ft): 2999 / 75
Runway Surface: Asphalt
Runway Surface Condition: Dry

Condition of Light: Day
Weather Info Src: Weather Observation Facility
Basic Weather: Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling: None
Visibility: 10.00 SM
Wind Dir/Speed: 150 / 004 kts
Temperature (°C): 24
Precip/Obscuration: No Obscuration; No Precipitation

Pilot-in-Command Age: 57

Certificate(s)/Rating(s)
Private; Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land

Flight Time (Hours)

Total All Aircraft: 6735
Last 90 Days: 5
Total Make/Model: 567
Total Instrument Time: 5410

Instrument Ratings
Airplane

*** Note: NTSB investigators used data provided by various entities, including, but not limited to, the Federal Aviation Administration and/or the operator and did not travel in support of this investigation to prepare this aircraft accident report. ***

Following a local banner towing flight, the pilot returned to the airport to drop the banner. With the flaps extended 10 degrees, the pilot maneuvered the airplane about 200 feet above the runway and slowed to an airspeed of 60 knots. After attempting to release the banner, the pilot added full engine power and felt a surge or deceleration from the engine. As the pilot reached down and pulled the banner release handle a second time, thinking the banner had not released, the airplane's left wing and nose dropped. The pilot was able to recover to a level attitude; however, before the descent could be arrested, the airplane impacted the ground and nosed over. The airplane's left wing and fuselage sustained substantial damage during the impact. A postaccident examination of the airplane revealed no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Updated at Dec 27 2011 8:49AM

Brief of Accident (Continued)

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Covington ,LA

Aircraft Reg No. N2401E

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OCCURRENCES

Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Aerodynamic stall/spin
Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

FINDINGS

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C
Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Airspeed-Not attained/maintained - C

Findings Legend: (C) = Cause, (F) = Factor

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident as follows:
The pilot's failure to maintain adequate airspeed during a banner drop, resulting in an aerodynamic stall.