



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Michael Hicks

Air Safety Investigator

(GAAID) General Aviation Accident Investigation Division

NOV 05, 2015

NTSB Accident Number: GAA15CA289

Airplane Registration & Make/Model: N3484V, Cessna/195

Accident Location: Merritt Island, FL

Accident Date and Time: 23SEP2015 at 1330 (EDT)

Subject: Memorandum for Record of Conversation Eric H. Cappel (Pilot)

According to the pilot, during a telephone conversation with the NTSB Air Safety Investigator In Charge, he stated that he was the Pilot In Command of the Cessna 195 that experienced the nose over shortly after touchdown on runway 11 at Merritt Island Airport on 23SEP2015 at approximately 1330(EDT). The pilot stated that he and his passenger touched down on the runway, on the main landing gear at about 70 miles per hour. The pilot reported that he continued the landing roll on his main gear for 500 to 800 feet. He stated that when the tail wheel touched down on the asphalt runway at an indicated air speed of approximately 45 miles per hour, the airplane rapidly veered to the left. The pilot stated that he applied the right rudder input, which had little to no effect on the airplane's movement to the left of the runway center line. He stated that he was able to prevent a runway excursion after applying the brakes; however, the airplane nosed over on the runway and came to rest inverted. He and his passenger were able to exit the airplane through their doors and under their own power.

The pilot stated that during the airplane recovery, the company charged with the responsibility of moving the airplane, lifted the airplane off of the runway and dropped it on the tail section, damaging the tail wheel. The pilot recounted that he, in previous years attended an accident investigation course held in Southern California. The pilot is in belief that there was a mechanical malfunction of the tail wheel that caused the directional control issue during his landing.