



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	ROSWELL, NM	Accident Number:	FTW94LA117
Date & Time:	04/01/1994, 1354 MDT	Registration:	N8961P
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-24-260	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

FLIGHT WAS EN ROUTE AT 10,000 FEET MSL WITH SCATTERED CLOUDS WHEN THE PILOT ENCOUNTERED 'SEVERE DOWNDRAFTS' AND THE AIRPLANE ENTERED AN UNCONTROLLED ALTITUDE DEVIATION AND DESCENT. THE PILOT INADVERTENTLY EXCEED THE NEVER EXCEED SPEED. AIRPLANE CONTROL WAS RECOVERED AT 4,400 FEET MSL. THE PILOT REPORTED THE AIR WAS 'RELATIVELY SMOOTH WITH SCATTERED CLOUDS AND NO OBVIOUS WARNING SIGNS.' HORIZONTAL STABILIZERS WERE BENT DOWNWARD.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE LOSS OF CONTROL DUE TO CLEAR AIR TURBULENCE.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE, CLEAR AIR
 2. AIRSPEED(VNE) - EXCEEDED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
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Occurrence #2: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. HORIZONTAL STABILIZER SURFACE - BENT

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	63
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1835 hours (Total, all aircraft), 162 hours (Total, this make and model), 1759 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 28 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 26 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N8961P
Model/Series:	PA-24-260 PA-24-260	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	GILCRIST, ROBERT P.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540-D4A5
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ROW, 3669 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ ,
Temperature:	24° C	Visibility	40 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BROWNSVILLE, TX (BRO)	Destination:	ALBUQUERQUE, NM (ABQ)

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
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	JOYCE M SMITH,	Adopted Date:	11/14/1994
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 pubin@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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