



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	WASHINGTON, DC	Accident Number:	NYC94LA144
Date & Time:	08/01/1994, 1745 EDT	Registration:	N433AW
Aircraft:	de Havilland DHC-8-311	Injuries:	1 Minor, 53 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled		

Analysis

THE COMMUTER AIRPLANE WAS PARKED AT THE GATE WITH 50 SEATED PASSENGERS, AND A CREW OF THREE. THE ENGINES WERE STOPPED, THE CHOCKS WERE IN PLACE, THE PILOTS WERE SEATED IN THE COCKPIT COMPLETING PAPER WORK, AND THE AIRSTAIR DOOR WAS OPEN. A BAGGAGE TRACTOR (DH4) HAD BROKEN DOWN, AND THE OPERATOR ASKED ANOTHER BAGGAGE TRACTOR OPERATOR (DH65), TO PUSH HIM TO THE END OF THE RAMP TO AWAIT SERVICE. DH65 BEGAN PUSHING DH4, WHICH STEERED TO PASS 15 TO 20 FEET TO THE LEFT OF THE AIRPLANE. AS DH4 ENTERED THE SERVICE ROAD, IT BEGAN TO TURN RIGHT TO HEAD WEST. AT THIS POINT, DH65 HAD NOT YET ENTERED THE SERVICE ROAD AND CONTINUED SOUTHWESTERLY FOR AN ADDITIONAL FEW FEET. AT THIS TIME, THE LEFT SIDE OF DH65'S FRONT HITCH, CONTACTED THE RIGHT SIDE OF DH4'S REAR HITCH. THE HITCH CONTACT JERKED THE FRONT OF DH65 TO THE RIGHT WHICH CAUSED THE DRIVER TO BE PITCHED HALFWAY OFF THE LEFT SIDE OF DH65. AS THE DRIVER FELL, HIS HAND PULLED DOWN ON THE STEERING WHEEL AND HIS FOOT PRESSED DOWN ON THE ACCELERATOR PEDAL. DH65 THEN VEERED INTO THE NOSE OF THE AIRPLANE.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE VEHICLE OPERATOR'S IMPROPER HANDLING OF THE BAGGAGE TRACTOR RESULTING IN LOSS OF CONTROL OF A SECOND BAGGAGE TRACTOR BEING PUSHED AND ITS SUBSEQUENT COLLISION WITH THE AIRPLANE.

Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: STANDING

Findings

1. OBJECT - VEHICLE
2. (C) EQUIPMENT, OTHER - IMPROPER USE OF - DRIVER OF VEHICLE

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	29
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	6200 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3000 hours (Total, this make and model), 150 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	de Havilland	Registration:	N433AW
Model/Series:	DHC-8-311 DHC-8-311	Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Operator:	ATLANTIC COAST AIRLINES	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Flag carrier (121)	Engine Model/Series:	PW-123
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	IAD, 313 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 2700 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots / , 230°
Temperature:	29°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Destination:		

Airport Information

Airport:	WASHINGTON-DULLES (IAD)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	50 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): ROBERT L PEARCE, Adopted Date: 12/07/1994

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 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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