



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Incident Data Summary

Location:	DENVER, CO	Incident Number:	FTW971A112
Date & Time:	03/01/1997, 2012 MST	Registration:	N902AW
Aircraft:	Boeing 757-2S7	Injuries:	101 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled		

Analysis

The airplane landed on runway 07, and the crew was instructed to contact ramp control. Ramp control, manned by airport personnel (not ATC personnel) instructed the crew to taxi east on taxiway AS to gate A44. The airplane was taxied underneath a pedestrian bridge/overpass (bridge). The airplane's vertical stabilizer struck the bridge. According to the company's procedures/directives, aircraft larger than the Airbus A320 were not to be taxied beneath the bridge, and the crew had been so advised via dispatch papers. In addition, a cautionary note in the airport taxi chart advised that the bridge provided for 40 foot tail and 117 foot wing clearance.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this incident to be: the pilot-in-command's failure to comply with company procedures/directives to not taxi the aircraft beneath the bridge/overpass, and his misjudgment of clearance between the vertical stabilizer and the bridge/overpass.

Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: TAXI - FROM LANDING

Findings

1. (C) PROCEDURES/DIRECTIVES - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. OBJECT - BRIDGE/OVERPASS
3. (C) CLEARANCE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	56
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	17500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 2500 hours (Total, this make and model), 15000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 130 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Boeing	Registration:	N902AW
Model/Series:	757-2S7 757-2S7	Engines:	2 Turbo Fan
Operator:	AMERICA WEST AIRLINES	Engine Manufacturer:	Rolls-Royce
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Flag carrier (121)	Engine Model/Series:	RB 211-535E4
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Night/Dark
Observation Facility, Elevation:	DEN, 5431 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots / , 160°
Temperature:	-1 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	PHOENIX, AZ (PHX)	Destination:	(DEN)

Airport Information

Airport:	DENVER INTERNATIONAL (DEN)	Runway Surface Type:	
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	6 None	Aircraft Damage:	Minor
Passenger Injuries:	95 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Latitude, Longitude:

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ARNOLD W SCOTT	Adopted Date:	06/26/1998
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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