



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	MORENO, CA	Accident Number:	LAX97LA270
Date & Time:	08/01/1997, 1500 PDT	Registration:	N322FA
Aircraft:	Consolidated-Vultee PBY-5A(28-5ACF)	Injuries:	2 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

After touching down to scoop another load of water, the pilot added power and the aircraft pitched forward. The pilot heard a pop and felt a sudden decelerative force. When the nose began to bowsuck, he applied more back pressure but the aircraft did not respond. The floor split open and water began rushing into the cockpit. The left nose gear door locking pin was found separated from its hydraulic actuator. It displayed a bend that corresponded to its retracted position in the pin guide. The deformation prevented investigators from reinserting the damaged pin back through the guide. The left mycarta block remained attached to the door and did not exhibit any damage.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the implosion of the unlocked left nose gear door which resulted in the hydraulic disintegration of the forward fuselage. The cause of the locking pin actuator malfunction was not determined.

Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (C) MISCELLANEOUS,DOWEL/PIN - NOT ENGAGED
2. (C) DOOR,LANDING GEAR - NOT SECURED

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - WATER

Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	37
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Multi-engine Sea; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	10200 hours (Total, all aircraft), 160 hours (Total, this make and model), 9600 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 38 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Consolidated-Vultee	Registration:	N322FA
Model/Series:	PBY-5A(28-5ACF) PBY-5A(28-	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Operator:	JOHN MILTON WELLS	Engine Manufacturer:	P&W
Operating Certificate(s) Held:		Engine Model/Series:	R1830-92
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SEE, 385 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	14 knots / , 260°
Temperature:	37° C	Visibility	25 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SANTA ANA, CA (SNA)	Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	ROBERT R CRISPIN	Adopted Date:	06/09/1999
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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