



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	DOUGLAS, AZ	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX92LA158
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	04/01/1992, 1115 MST	<b>Registration:</b>	N28723
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-28-161	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	3 Minor

**Flight Conducted Under:** Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional

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## Analysis

WHILE TAXIING TO A RUN-UP AREA ADJACENT TO THE ACTIVE RUNWAY FOR A LOCAL INSTRUCTIONAL FLIGHT, THE PILOT REPORTED A 'SUDDEN STRONG WIND GUST' OCCURRED THAT RENDERED ALL ATTEMPTS OF CROSS-CONTROLLING THE AIRCRAFT IN A GUSTY WIND CONDITION INEFFECTIVE. THE AIRCRAFT SUBSEQUENTLY NOSED OVER. ADDITIONALLY, TWO WITNESSES LOCATED CLOSE TO THE SCENE REPORTED AN 'EXTREMELY STRONG' WIND GUST SUDDENLY AROSE AT THE TIME OF THE ACCIDENT WHICH REPORTEDLY RATTLED BUILDING ROOFS AND THREW A PEDESTRIAN AGAINST A STRUCTURE.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: AN ENCOUNTER WITH AN UNFORECASTED HIGH VELOCITY WIND GUST WHICH CAUSED THE AIRPLANE TO NOSE OVER TO AN INVERTED POSITION.

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER  
Phase of Operation: TAXI - TO TAKEOFF

### Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
2. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - HIGH WIND
3. COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: NOSE OVER  
Phase of Operation: TAXI - TO TAKEOFF

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	55, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Right
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	Yes
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	12/09/1991
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	2981 hours (Total, all aircraft), 84 hours (Total, this make and model), 2612 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 87 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 26 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N28723
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-28-161 PA-28-161	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	28-79
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	03/23/1992, Continuous Airworthiness	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2325 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	42 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-D3G
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	COCHISE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	<b>Rated Power:</b>	160 hp
<b>Operator:</b>	COCHISE COMMUNITY COLLEGE	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	DUG, 4151 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1057 MST	Direction from Accident Site:	20°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 5000 ft agl	Visibility	40 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	23 knots / 29 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	Variable	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16° C / 2° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0000	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Airport Information

Airport:	COCHISE COLLEGE AIRPORT (P03)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	4120 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	5	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4800 ft / 80 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Richard V Childress	Report Date:	08/26/1993
Additional Participating Persons:	GEORGE GIBERSON; SCOTTSDALE, AZ		
Publish Date:			
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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).