



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	FREDERICK, MD	<b>Accident Number:</b>	NYC99LA191
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	08/01/1999, 1440 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N70894
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper J3C-65	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot obtained a standard weather briefing, and then filed a flight plan. He then received a weather update from flight service approximately 5 minutes before executing the flight. During the update, the briefer indicated that scattered thunderstorms in the Hagerstown area were moving east towards Frederick. The pilot calculated that he would arrive at his destination prior to the thunderstorms, so he departed. While approaching his destination, the pilot noticed the sky to the north of his position was 'very dark.' He also experienced an increase in turbulence. The pilot checked weather with Frederick UNICOM, and was advised the winds were 4 knots. With the approaching thunderstorms, the pilot expedited his turn from base to final, and executed a 'normal' landing. As the airplane rolled out it became airborne and started to drift to the right. The airplane touched down, exited the runway, and the landing gear collapsed when it struck a sign. The pilot shut off both magnetos, secured the throttle, and exited the airplane. The pilot stated, 'I think I encountered a gust and simply lost control.'

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain directional control. Contributing factors were gusty wind conditions and the sign.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
2. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

### Findings

3. (F) OBJECT - AIRPORT SIGN/MARKER

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	48
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Glider; Helicopter	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	869 hours (Total, all aircraft), 46 hours (Total, this make and model), 711 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Piper	<b>Registration:</b>	N70894
<b>Model/Series:</b>	J3C-65 J3C-65	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	J D KREIS AVIATION INC	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	A-65
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	HGR, 735 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None / 0 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	8 knots / , 310°
<b>Temperature:</b>	24° C	<b>Visibility</b>	4 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	CLARKSVILLE, MD (MD24)	<b>Destination:</b>	, MD (FDK)

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	FREDERICK MUNICIPAL (FDK)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Runway Used:</b>	23	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	5220 ft / 100 ft		

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>			

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): DAVID S MUZIO

Adopted Date: 04/18/2001

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](mailto: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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