



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Factual Report

Location:	Pittsburgh, PA	Accident Number:	NYC04LA063
Date & Time:	02/01/2004, 1700 EST	Registration:	N158SD
Aircraft:	Saab-Scania AB (Saab) 340A	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	22 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled		

On February 1, 2004, at 1700 eastern standard time, a Saab 340A, N158SD, operated by Shuttle America Inc., as US Airways Express flight 4593, was substantially damaged when it was struck by a baggage cart while parked at Gate E11 at Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT), Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The two flightcrew members, one flight attendant, and 19 passengers were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and an instrument flight rules flight plan had been filed for the flight which was destined for Toledo International Airport (TOL), Toledo, Ohio. The scheduled passenger flight was to be conducted under 14 CFR Part 121.

According to the operator, the airplane was parked at the gate, when a baggage cart became disconnected from the tug which was towing it, and impacted the left side of the fuselage. Substantial damage to the airplane included a 23-inch tear in the fuselage, as well as five circumferential structure fractures.

Examination of the tug revealed a broken E-hitch pin where the baggage cart became disconnected. Ground service personnel then examined all tugs and their associated baggage carts to identify any additional faulty gearshift levers. During the inspection, one additional tug was identified as having a broken pin. The pin was replaced, and the vehicle was returned to service.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	52, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/11/2003
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Co-Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	31, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	07/15/2003
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2339 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Saab-Scania AB (Saab)	Registration:	N158SD
Model/Series:	340A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Transport	Serial Number:	340A-158
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	33
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Continuous Airworthiness	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	28000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	General Electric
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	CT7-5A2
Registered Owner:	Banc of America Leasing & Capital LLC	Rated Power:	1735 hp
Operator:	Shuttle America	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Flag carrier (121)
Operator Does Business As:	US Airways Express	Operator Designator Code:	UHLA

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Dusk
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PIT, 1204 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	1651 EST	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 25000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	80°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.38 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-3° C / -11° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Pittsburgh, PA (PIT)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	Toledo, OH (TOL)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1600 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class B

Airport Information

Airport:	Pittsburgh Int'l Airport (PIT)	Runway Surface Type:	Unknown
Airport Elevation:	1204 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	NA	IFR Approach:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Unknown

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	19 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	22 None	Latitude, Longitude:	40.496667, -80.232778

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jill M Andrews
Additional Participating Persons:	Ellen Tutro; FAA/FSDO; South Bend, IN
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/ .