



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Llano, CA	Accident Number:	LAX06CA081
Date & Time:	12/03/2005, 1500 PST	Registration:	N4601M
Aircraft:	Burkhart Grob G 103 Twin II	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Other Work Use - Sightseeing		

Analysis

After encountering downdrafts, the glider was damaged when the pilot landed on unsuitable brush-covered mountainous terrain. The commercial pilot had planned to take the fare-paying passenger on a 45-minute-long sightseeing ride. Downdrafts were encountered after soaring for nearly 30 minutes. The pilot was unable to cross over a mountain ridge and to get to the airport. The pilot landed on the brush covered mountainside in an uphill direction and at minimum speed.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The flight's encounter with downdrafts. A contributing factor was the unsuitable vegetation-covered mountainous terrain.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH VEGETATION
3. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - MOUNTAINOUS/HILLY
4. TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	37, Female
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None None	Last Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	06/01/2004
Flight Time:	261 hours (Total, all aircraft), 230 hours (Total, this make and model), 162 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Burkhart Grob	Registration:	N4601M
Model/Series:	G 103 Twin II	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	3831
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1279 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	0
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	
Registered Owner:	Frederick J. Robinson	Rated Power:	
Operator:	Great Western Soaring School	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:		Observation Time:	
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	10° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	20 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	15 knots, 300°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:		Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Llano, CA (46CN)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Llano, CA (46CN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1430 PST	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Wayne Pollack	Adopted Date:	03/28/2006
Additional Participating Persons:	Ladd Scott; Federal Aviation Administration; Van Nuys, CA		
Publish Date:			
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
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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