



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Alamogordo, NM	Accident Number:	DEN06CA031
Date & Time:	01/02/2006, 1015 MST	Registration:	N37814
Aircraft:	Culver Cadet LCA	Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that after takeoff from runway 31, the airplane climbed to approximately 75 feet above ground level and encountered a downdraft. The airplane impacted the runway causing substantial damage. An examination of the airplane's systems revealed no anomalies. Prior to departure, the pilot estimated the wind as 280 degrees at 15 knots. After the accident, a hand held wind meter recorded the winds at 8 knots, gusting to 18 knots.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's failure to maintain aircraft control during the departure climb. Contributing factors included the gusty winds and the downdraft.

Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DOWNDRAFT
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS

Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

3. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor	Age:	56
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane
Flight Time:	11000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 67 hours (Total, this make and model), 9000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 138 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Culver	Registration:	N37814
Model/Series:	Cadet LCA	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Franklin
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	4AC-199-E3
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	ALM, 4200 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 200°
Temperature:	13°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Timberon Airf., NM (52NM)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Timberon Airport (52NM)	Runway Surface Type:	Gravel
Runway Used:	31	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:			

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:	32.641667, -105.708333		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jennifer S Kaiser	Adopted Date:	04/25/2006
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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