



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Freehold, NY	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL07CA101
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	07/01/2007, 1230 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N42CA
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Schempp-Hirth Discus-CS	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None

**Flight Conducted Under:** Part 91: General Aviation - Glider Tow

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## Analysis

The pilot stated that the takeoff was normal. His glider and the tow plane were on the initial climb out. During the climb they began to encounter heavy turbulence. At 200 feet AGL he continued to encounter heavy turbulence and bumped his head twice against the canopy. He inadvertently hit the release cable handle at a low altitude, and disconnected from the tow plane. He attempted to return to the airport and collided with trees after losing lift. The pilot did not report any flight control anomalies with the glider.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadvertent activation of the tow release handle at a low altitude following an encounter with turbulence.

## Findings

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Occurrence #1: MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

### Findings

1. WEATHER CONDITION - TURBULENCE
2. (C) GLIDER/TOW RELEASE - INADVERTENT ACTIVATION - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING AFTER TAKEOFF

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

### Findings

3. OBJECT - TREE(S)

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	56, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	Glider	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	None None	<b>Last Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>		<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	10/01/2006
<b>Flight Time:</b>	104 hours (Total, all aircraft), 18 hours (Total, this make and model), 50 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	Schempp-Hirth	<b>Registration:</b>	N42CA
<b>Model/Series:</b>	Discus-CS	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Glider
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental	<b>Serial Number:</b>	239CS
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tandem	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	06/01/2007, Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1800 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	2 Hours	<b>Engines:</b>	0
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	409 Hours	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Paul F. Quinn	<b>Rated Power:</b>	
<b>Operator:</b>	Paul F. Quinn	<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KALB, 285 ft msl	Observation Time:	1151 EDT
Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	20°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 7000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	19°C / 8°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots/ 14 knots, 350°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.07 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Freehold, NY (115)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Freehold, NY (115)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1230 EDT	Type of Airspace:	

## Airport Information

Airport:	FREEHOLD (NY21)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	440 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	30	IFR Approach:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:	2275 ft / 22 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric H Alleyne	Adopted Date:	10/31/2007
Additional Participating Persons:	Jim Welch; Albany FSDO-01; Albany, NY		
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 <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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