



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Middletown, DE	Accident Number:	ERA09CA217
Date & Time:	12/01/2008, 1650 EST	Registration:	N276
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-32R-300	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that the airplane was on short final approach for landing on runway 35, when he experienced a "sudden loss of airspeed and rapid increase in descent rate that was not altered by the application of power." The airplane landed hard on the runway, all three landing gear collapsed, and the airplane slid off the left side of the runway. The wing spar and engine firewall were substantially damaged. The pilot further stated that he was flying from the right seat, which made referencing the instruments more difficult, and he "encountered windshear." The winds at an airport located 10 miles northeast of the accident airport, about the time of the accident, were recorded as 280 degrees at 17 knots, with gusts to 34 knots.

Flight Events

Landing-flare/touchdown - Other weather encounter
Landing-flare/touchdown - Loss of control in flight
Landing - Hard landing
Landing - Landing gear collapse
Landing-flare/touchdown - Runway excursion

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 while landing in gusty conditions.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-(general)-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	48
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
Flight Time:	2267 hours (Total, all aircraft), 155 hours (Total, this make and model), 47 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N276
Model/Series:	PA-32R-300	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	RBF MANAGEMENT CO	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	T10-540 SER
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	ILG, 74 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4300 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	17 knots/ 34 knots, 280°
Temperature:	6°C / 2°C	Visibility	9 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; Rain		
Departure Point:	Somerset, NJ (SMQ)	Destination:	Middletown, DE (EVY)

Airport Information

Airport:	Summit Airport (EVY)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	35	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	4488 ft / 65 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Michael C Huhn	Adopted Date:	07/14/2009
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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