



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Lihue, HI	Accident Number:	WPR09LA386
Date & Time:	08/01/2009, 1445 HST	Registration:	N44VZ
Aircraft:	AIRBORNE WINDSPORTS PTY LTD XT-912-L	Injuries:	2 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The pilot of the light sport weight-shift-control airplane said that they were descending through a "hole in the clouds" when the aircraft encountered severe turbulence, resulting in the flight instructor losing control of the aircraft. The flight instructor subsequently deployed the aircraft's onboard rocket-propelled parachute system before impacting mountainous terrain and coming to rest on a hillside, entangled in surrounding trees. The flight instructor reported no anomalies with the airplane prior to or during the flight.

Flight Events

Enroute-descent - Turbulence encounter
Enroute-descent - Loss of control in flight
Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The flight instructor's failure to maintain control of the airplane following an in-flight encounter with turbulence during descent.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-(general)-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Instructor/check pilot - C
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Turbulence-Convective turbulence-Effect on equipment

Flight Instructor Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor	Age:	44
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Sport Pilot
Flight Time:	278 hours (Total, all aircraft), 275 hours (Total, this make and model), 145 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	1 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AIRBORNE WINDSPORTS PTY LTD	Registration:	N44VZ
Model/Series:	XT-912-L	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	ROTAX
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	912UL
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	LIH, 153 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4000 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	17 knots/ 17 knots, 17°
Temperature:		Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Port Allen Airp, HI (PAK)	Destination:	Port Allen Airp, HI (PAK)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Thomas Little	Adopted Date:	04/22/2010
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74456		

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