



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Allentown, PA	Accident Number:	ERA11CA202
Date & Time:	03/02/2011, 1445 EST	Registration:	N9172V
Aircraft:	PIPER PA 46-350P	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Abnormal runway contact	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he landed the airplane in a right crosswind and wind gusts. He applied a right crosswind correction, flared, and touched down with the right main landing gear on the runway. When the pilot removed the right crosswind control corrections, the airplane landed hard and as the nose wheel settled onto the runway, the airplane swerved to the left. The nose landing gear collapsed, resulting in substantial damage to the firewall and forward baggage compartment supports. The pilot reported no preimpact mechanical problems with the airplane.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to adequately compensate for crosswind conditions, resulting in a hard landing.

Findings

Aircraft	Crosswind correction - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation Crosswind - Response/compensation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Abnormal runway contact (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Landing gear collapse

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	78, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	11/15/2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	02/10/2011
Flight Time:	4499 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3321 hours (Total, this make and model), 4499 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 37 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N9172V
Model/Series:	PA 46-350P	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	4622038
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	12/18/2010, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4340 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	39 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3341 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540-AE2A
Registered Owner:	D AND H AIR INC	Rated Power:	350 hp
Operator:	James J. Dooley Jr	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	XLL, 399 ft msl	Observation Time:	1440 EST
Distance from Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Temperature/Dew Point:	11°C / 3°C
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 8000 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	17 knots/ 27 knots, 290°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.04 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Baltimore, MD (BWI)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	Allentown, PA (XLL)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1400 EST	Type of Airspace:	Class C

Airport Information

Airport:	Allentown Queen City Municipal (XLL)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	399 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	25	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3949 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic Pattern

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):	Carrol A Smith	Adopted Date:	07/18/2011
Additional Participating Persons:	Lee Abt; FAA Allentown FSDO; Allentown, PA		
Publish Date:	07/18/2011		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=78632		

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