



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Modesto, CA	Accident Number:	WPR12LA057
Date & Time:	12/01/2011, 1339 PST	Registration:	N547UA
Aircraft:	BOEING 757-222	Injuries:	1 Serious, 151 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled		

Analysis

While en route at flight level (FL) 360, the captain of the commercial air carrier flight requested and was granted a lower altitude (FL 300) to minimize the effect that turbulence was having on the airplane. After the captain received pilot reports indicating that varying degrees of turbulence, mountain wave activity, and low-level windshear existed, he illuminated the seat belt sign and made an announcement for the passengers to be seated. The flight crew then advised the cabin crewmembers of possible turbulence and instructed them to prepare the cabin for landing, stay near their seats, and be seated immediately if turbulence was encountered. About 7 to 10 minutes later, while the airplane was at FL 300, the flight encountered moderate-to-severe turbulence. A flight attendant who was in the lavatory when the turbulence was encountered sustained a broken ankle after being thrown in the air twice.

Flight Events

Approach-IFR initial approach - Turbulence encounter

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The flight's encounter with known severe turbulence associated with mountain wave activity, which resulted in a flight attendant sustaining a broken ankle.

Findings

Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Turbulence-Terrain induced turbulence-Effect on equipment - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	54
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	11290 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3823 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Co-Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	51
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	9469 hours (Total, all aircraft), 6782 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	BOEING	Registration:	N547UA
Model/Series:	757-222	Engines:	2 Turbo Jet
Operator:	United Airlines	Engine Manufacturer:	P & W
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	Flag carrier (121)	Engine Model/Series:	PW2040
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MOD, 99 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	24 knots/ 29 knots, 340°
Temperature:	19° C / -7° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	DENVER, CO (DEN)	Destination:	SAN FRANCISCO, CA (SFO)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious, 5 None	Aircraft Damage:	None
Passenger Injuries:	146 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Tealeye Cornejo	Adopted Date:	08/11/2015
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=82481		

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