



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Connersville, IN	Accident Number:	CEN14CA231
Date & Time:	05/03/2014, 1510 EDT	Registration:	N6245H
Aircraft:	PIPER J3C 65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he decided to land at an en route airport to obtain fuel due to a stronger headwind than what was forecast for his route of flight. The pilot made a normal landing to the north and turned west off the runway onto the first taxi. He then made another turn to the north on the taxiway that paralleled the runway. As he taxied beyond a row of trees that were to the west, the upwind wing of the airplane lifted and the airplane flipped inverted. The rudder and left front wing strut were substantially damaged. The pilot stated he was using proper crosswind taxi technique, but was unable to keep the wing down. The wind conditions recorded at an airport located 37 miles away from the airport where the accident occurred were from 290 degrees at 16 knots gusting to 25 knots. The pilot reported the local wind condition at the time of the accident was similar.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inability to control the airplane while taxiing due to a strong crosswind condition.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	High wind - Ability to respond/compensate (Cause)
	Crosswind - Ability to respond/compensate (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Taxi-from runway	Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Nose over/nose down
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	40
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	01/22/2014
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	8230 hours (Total, all aircraft), 44 hours (Total, this make and model), 3478 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 118 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 39 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N6245H
Model/Series:	J3C 65 65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	19419
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	12/06/2013, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	17 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3467 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	C85 SERIES
Registered Owner:	DUNCAN RICHARD N	Rated Power:	85 hp
Operator:	Lewis Arenzana	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	GEZ, 803 ft msl	Observation Time:	1453 EDT
Distance from Accident Site:	37 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	258°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 7000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	20°C / 2°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	16 knots/ 25 knots, 290°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.86 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Cambridge, OH (CDI)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Connersville, IN (CEV)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1040 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	Mettel Field Airport (CEV)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	866 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	6503 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	Unknown
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	Unknown
Total Injuries:	1 Minor		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Pamela S Sullivan	Adopted Date:	07/30/2014
Additional Participating Persons:			
Publish Date:	08/13/2014		
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=89179		

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