



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Valdosta, GA	Accident Number:	ERA15CA117
Date & Time:	02/02/2015, 1300 EST	Registration:	N42993
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-32-301	Injuries:	4 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he was landing the airplane in turbulent conditions with gusting wind. He stated that during the landing flare, the airplane encountered an updraft, followed immediately by a downdraft. The airplane subsequently impacted the runway and the nose landing gear collapsed, resulting in substantial damage to the engine firewall. The pilot reported there were no mechanical malfunctions or anomalies of the airplane that would have precluded normal operation. Review of archived weather information for the accident airport about the time of the accident revealed variable wind at 9 knots with gusts to 19 knots.

Flight Events

Landing-flare/touchdown - Hard landing

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to compensate for gusty wind conditions during the landing flare, which resulted in a hard landing and subsequent nose landing gear collapse.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Landing flare-Not attained/maintained - C

Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Lack of action-Pilot - C

Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Wind-Sudden wind shift-Response/compensation

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	44
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	353 hours (Total, all aircraft), 100 hours (Total, this make and model), 41 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 23 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N42993
Model/Series:	PA-32-301	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	BC AVIATION LLC	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540 K1G5
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	VLD, 198 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:	9 knots/ 19 knots, 300°
Temperature:	13°C / 3°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Gulfport, MS (GPT)	Destination:	Valdosta, GA (VLD)

Airport Information

Airport:	Valdosta Regional (VLD)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	35	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	8001 ft / 100 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Allison N Diaz	Adopted Date:	07/29/2015
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=90684		

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