



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Franklin, PA	Accident Number:	GAA19CA491
Date & Time:	08/10/2019, 1700 EDT	Registration:	N62644
Aircraft:	CONSOLIDATED VULTEE BT13	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during takeoff, the airplane encountered a wind gust and veered left. The airplane exited the runway onto adjacent grass, and the left main landing gear collapsed.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The airport's automated weather observation station reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was from 320° at 8 knots, gusting to 17 knots and variable from 290° to 350°. The airplane was departing from runway 3.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to maintain directional control during takeoff in gusting crosswind conditions, which resulted in a runway excursion and the left main landing gear collapsing.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation (Cause) Crosswind - Effect on operation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Other weather encounter Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Runway excursion Landing gear collapse
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	71, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	BasicMed With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	12/22/2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	07/19/2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 3000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 100 hours (Total, this make and model), 20 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CONSOLIDATED VULTEE	Registration:	N62644
Model/Series:	BT13	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1942	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	79-1287
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	06/01/2019, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1687.9 Hours as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Pratt & Whitney
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	R-985 SERIES
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	450 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KFKL, 1539 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2056 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	319°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 4200 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots / 17 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	320°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / Moderate
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22°C / 12°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Wadsworth, OH (3G3)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Franklin, PA (FKL)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0930 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	Venango Rgnl (FKL)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1540 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	03	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5200 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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	Latitude, Longitude:	41.377500, -79.860556 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric M Gutierrez	Report Date:	12/02/2019
Additional Participating Persons:	Gerald Labuskes; FAA; Pittsburgh, PA		
Publish Date:	12/02/2019		
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=100044		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).