



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

---

<b>Location:</b>	Winfield, AL	<b>Accident Number:</b>	GAA19CA539
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	09/04/2019, 1130 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N7326H
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper J3C	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Nose over/nose down	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

---

## Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, while taxiing for takeoff, a tailwind gust lifted the tail and the airplane nosed over.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right wing, right wing lift strut, and the rudder.

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

The pilot reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was light and variable, gusting to 15 knots. The pilot was back taxiing to the south.

## 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 proper wind correction input during taxi in a gusting tailwind, which resulted in a nose over.

## Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	Crosswind correction - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Tailwind - Effect on equipment

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

Taxi	Nose over/nose down (Defining event)
------	--------------------------------------

### Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Private	Age:	66, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; 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:	Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/24/2018
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	03/18/2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1110 hours (Total, all aircraft), 57 hours (Total, this make and model), 1014 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 51 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N7326H
Model/Series:	J3C 65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1946	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	20588
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/04/2019, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1220 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1687.8 Hours as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	A-65-8
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65 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:	KJFX, 483 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	27 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1635 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	85°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.05 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	34° C / 21° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Winfield, AL (AL54)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1130 EDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

## Airport Information

Airport:	Bird Nest (AL54)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	420 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	35	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2200 ft / 80 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	33.863333, -87.845278 (est)

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric M Gutierrez	Report Date:	03/17/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Porter Mayberry; FAA; Birmingham, AL		
Publish Date:	03/17/2020		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=100239">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=100239</a>		

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](#).