



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Lander, WY	Accident Number:	GAA19CA575
Date & Time:	09/26/2019, 1450 MDT	Registration:	N33463
Aircraft:	Piper J3C	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during takeoff in ground effect, the airplane encountered a wind gust from the left, and the right wing struck the ground. The airplane drifted right, the main landing gear impacted a fence parallel to the runway, and the airplane nosed over. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage, empennage, and both wings. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

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 lateral control during takeoff with a quartering tailwind, which resulted in the right wing striking the ground, a runway excursion, impact with a fence, and a subsequent noseover.

Findings

Aircraft	Lateral/bank control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Fence/fence post - Effect on operation (Cause)
	Tailwind - Effect on operation (Cause)
	Crosswind - Effect on operation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control in flight (Defining event) Runway excursion
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	65, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
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 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	02/20/2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	12/23/2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 3475 hours (Total, all aircraft), 60 hours (Total, this make and model), 3406 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 44 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N33463
Model/Series:	J3C 65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1940	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	5973
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	07/19/2019, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4640.26 Hours as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	C-85-8FJ
Registered Owner:	Lander Skymaster LLC	Rated Power:	85 hp
Operator:	Lander Skymaster LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KLND, 5558 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2053 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	98°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	18 knots / 28 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	280°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.76 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27° C / -3° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lander, WY (LND)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Lander, WY (LND)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1448 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Hunt Field (LND)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5588 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	04	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5000 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	42.815278, -108.728611 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric M Gutierrez	Report Date:	03/17/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert Nance; FAA; Denver, CO		
Publish Date:	03/17/2020		
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=100351		

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](#).