



Aviation Investigation Final Report

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|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Knoxville, Tennessee | Accident Number: | ERA23LA019 |
| Date & Time: | October 14, 2022, 10:27 Local | Registration: | N26944 |
| Aircraft: | GULFSTREAM AMERICAN CORP AA-5A | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | Loss of control on ground | Injuries: | 1 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Instructional | | |

Analysis

The student pilot was on his first solo flight and was attempting to land. Just before touch down, a gust of wind pushed the airplane off the left side of the runway, and it struck a ditch. Subsequently, the left horizontal stabilizer sustained substantial damage. The student pilot reported that the airplane had no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures 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 student pilot’s loss of directional control on landing.

Findings

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| Personnel issues | Aircraft control - Student/instructed pilot |
| Environmental issues | Gusts - Response/compensation |

Factual Information

History of Flight

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| Landing-flare/touchdown | Loss of control on ground (Defining event) |
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Pilot Information

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| Certificate: | Student | Age: | 60, Male |
| Airplane Rating(s): | None | Seat Occupied: | Left |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None | Restraint Used: | 3-point |
| Instrument Rating(s): | None | Second Pilot Present: | No |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | |
| Medical Certification: | Class 3 | Last FAA Medical Exam: | |
| Occupational Pilot: | No | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | |
| Flight Time: | 56.2 hours (Total, all aircraft), 8 hours (Total, this make and model), 8 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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| Aircraft Make: | GULFSTREAM AMERICAN CORP | Registration: | N26944 |
| Model/Series: | AA-5A | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Normal | Serial Number: | AA5A0829 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Tricycle | Seats: | 4 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | August 22, 2022 100 hour | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time: | 3781.7 Hrs as of last inspection | Engine Manufacturer: | LYCOMING |
| ELT: | C91A installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident | Engine Model/Series: | 0-320-E2G |
| Registered Owner: | On file | Rated Power: | 150 Horsepower |
| Operator: | On file | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual (VMC) | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | DKX,833 ft msl | Distance from Accident Site: | 0 Nautical Miles |
| Observation Time: | 10:35 Local | Direction from Accident Site: | 0° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Visibility | 10 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling: | | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Wind Speed/Gusts: | 6 knots / 12 knots | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual: | None / None |
| Wind Direction: | 260° | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | N/A / N/A |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.02 inches Hg | Temperature/Dew Point: | 15°C / 5°C |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | Knoxville, TN | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Destination: | Knoxville, TN | Type of Clearance: | None |
| Departure Time: | | Type of Airspace: | Unknown |

Airport Information

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| Airport: | KNOXVILLE DOWNTOWN ISLAND DKX | Runway Surface Type: | Asphalt |
| Airport Elevation: | 833 ft msl | Runway Surface Condition: | Dry |
| Runway Used: | 8 | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | 3499 ft / 75 ft | VFR Approach/Landing: | Full stop |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 1 None | Latitude, Longitude: | 35.963833,-83.873667(est) |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Read, Leah |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Joeseph Kachinski; FAA/FSDO; Nashville |
| Original Publish Date: | June 6, 2023 |
| Last Revision Date: | |
| Investigation Class: | Class 4 |
| Note: | The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident. |
| Investigation Docket: | https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=106129 |

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).