



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	LUBBOCK, Texas	Accident Number:	FTW87LA036
Date & Time:	December 20, 1986, 16:09 Local	Registration:	N8456X
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-34-220T	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation		

Analysis

THE PLT STATED THAT AFTER A NORMAL APCH, HE MADE A HARD LANDING ON THE MAIN GEAR AND THE ACFT BOUNCED. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE SECOND CONTACT WAS HARD ON THE MAIN GEAR AND THAT THE NOSE GEAR COLLAPSED WHEN IT TOUCHED DOWN THE 2ND TIME. DAMAGE SUSTAINED BY THE ACFT INDICATED THAT IT HAD LANDED HARD ON THE NOSE GEAR THE 2ND TIME, CAUSING THE NOSE GEAR TO COLLAPSE AS A RESULT OF OVERLOAD.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Findings

Occurrence #1: HARD LANDING
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

- Findings
1. (C) PROPER DESCENT RATE - NOT ATTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
 2. (C) FLARE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: NOSE GEAR COLLAPSED
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

3. (C) RECOVERY FROM BOUNCED LANDING - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	51, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 30, 1985
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1674 hours (Total, all aircraft), 440 hours (Total, this make and model), 1615 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N8456X
Model/Series:	PA-34-220T PA-34-220T	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	82-33013
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	7
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 26, 1986 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	31 Hrs	Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2050 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	CONTINENTAL
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TSIO-360-KB
Registered Owner:	RANDY T. WARREN	Rated Power:	220 Horsepower
Operator:	WEST-TEX AIRCRAFT, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LBB ,3281 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	15:49 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	25000 ft AGL	Visibility	15 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	50°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	12°C / 2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	MIDLAND , TX (MAF)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	15:20 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E;TRSA

Airport Information

Airport:	LUBBOCK INTL. LBB	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Airport Elevation:	3281 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	17R	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	11500 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

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:	33.590423,-101.849586(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Wander, Warren

Additional Participating Persons: WILLIAM ROBINSON; LUBBOCK , TX

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=22311>

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](#).