



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: WILLIAMSON, New York Accident Number: NYC93LA037

Date & Time: December 6, 1992, 12:50 Local Registration: N4946Z

Aircraft: PIPER PA-22-108 Aircraft Damage: Destroyed

Defining Event: 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

ON FINAL APPROACH TO RUNWAY 28, WITH WINDS FROM 230 DEGREES AT 20 KNOTS, GUSTING TO 28, THE AIRPLANE LOST ALTITUDE AND STRUCK A SNOW BANK 6 TO 10 FEET FROM THE APPROACH END OF THE RUNWAY. AS THE AIRPLANE PITCHED OVER, THE NOSE STRUT COLLAPSED, AND THE AIRPLANE SLID TO A STOP 50 FEET DOWN THE RUNWAY WHERE A POST IMPACT FIRE CONSUMED THE AIRPLANE.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT FAILED TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE COMPENSATION FOR THE WIND CONDITIONS. A FACTOR IN THIS ACCIDENT WAS THE HIGH GUSTING WINDS.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT

Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS

2. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings
3. TERRAIN CONDITION - SNOWBANK

Page 2 of 6 NYC93LA037

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	64,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medicalw/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	November 25, 1992
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	498 hours (Total, all aircraft), 300 hours (Total, this make and model), 498 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Page 3 of 6 NYC93LA037

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N4946Z
Model/Series:	PA-22-108 PA-22-108	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	22-8542
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 2, 1992 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1650 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	75 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5780 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-C1B
Registered Owner:	WILLIAMSON FLYING CLUB, INC.	Rated Power:	108 Horsepower
Operator:	WILLIAMSON FLYING CLUB, 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:	ROC,559 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	26 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	12:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	263°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	15 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	20 knots / 28 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	230°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	1°C / -4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipita	ation	
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:50 Local	Type of Airspace:	Airport advisory area;Class G

Page 4 of 6 NYC93LA037

Airport Information

Airport:	WILLIAM SODUS 3G7	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	425 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Snow
Runway Used:	28	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3370 ft / 35 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	43.240764,-77.150268(est)

Page 5 of 6 NYC93LA037

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Pearce, Robert

Additional Participating PHILLIP IDE; ROCHESTER, NY
Persons:

Original Publish Date: September 14, 1993

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: Class

Note:

Investigation Docket: https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=37273

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.

Page 6 of 6 NYC93LA037