



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	LYNCHBURG, Virginia	Accident Number:	ATL83LA162
Date & Time:	May 10, 1983, 08:16 Local	Registration:	N25693
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-38-112	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

THE ACFT LANDED HARD AND BOUNCED SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE COLLAPSING THE LANDING GEAR. THE STUDENT PILOT WAS ON HER FIRST SOLO FLIGHT AFTER 31 HOURS OF DUAL INSTRUCTION IN THE PA-38 ACFT. THE STUDENT REPORTED THE ACCIDENT WAS STUDENT INDUCED AND THAT THERE WERE NO MALFUNCTIONS IN EQUIPMENT. THE LANDING WAS MADE WITH ONE NOTCH AND FLAPS. THE WIND WAS REPORTEDLY NOT A FACTOR.

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) FLARE - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 2. (C) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OPERATION - PILOT IN COMMAND
 3. (C) FLIGHT CONTROLS - IMPROPER USE OF - PILOT IN COMMAND
 4. (C) RECOVERY FROM BOUNCED LANDING - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
 5. (C) LOWERING OF FLAPS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
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Occurrence #2: COMPLETE GEAR COLLAPSED
Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings

6. (F) LANDING GEAR,MAIN GEAR ATTACHMENT - OVERLOAD
7. (F) LANDING GEAR,NOSE GEAR ASSEMBLY - OVERLOAD

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	39,Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 25, 1982
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	31 hours (Total, all aircraft), 31 hours (Total, this make and model), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	PIPER	Registration:	N25693
Model/Series:	PA-38-112 PA-38-112	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	38-81A0056
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 28, 1983 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	25 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	932 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-235-L2C
Registered Owner:	FLIGHT AMERICA, INC.	Rated Power:	112 Horsepower
Operator:	FLIGHT AMERICA, INC.	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
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:	LYH, 938 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	08:20 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	35 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	50°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	10°C / -1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:		Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	
Departure Time:	08:05 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	LYNCHBURG MUNI LYH	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	938 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	21	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5799 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop; Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

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:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Drake, John

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date:

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note:

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=6051>

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](#).