



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Shepard, Texas	Accident Number:	CEN11CA406
Date & Time:	June 17, 2011, 16:45 Local	Registration:	N3504K
Aircraft:	Piper J3C-65	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot departed to practice touch-and-go takeoffs and landings. He said the sky was clear and the wind was blowing directly down the runway about 5 to 10 knots during the takeoff roll. When the airplane reached an altitude of 50 feet, the pilot encountered turbulent updrafts and downdrafts, which caused him to have a difficult time controlling the airplane. He tried to abort the take off, but the airplane encountered an updraft and was turned almost 90 degrees to the right, and was pushed over a heavily wooded area adjacent to the runway. The airplane stalled and collided with trees in a near vertical nose down attitude causing substantial damage to the wings and vertical stabilizer. The pilot reported there were no mechanical deficiencies 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 loss of aircraft control after encountering windshear and turbulence on takeoff.

Findings

Personnel issues	Incorrect action performance - Pilot
Environmental issues	(general) - Ability to respond/compensate

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor; Private	Age:	49, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2115 hours (Total, all aircraft), 21 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N3504K
Model/Series:	J3C-65	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	22194
Landing Gear Type:		Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	A&C75 SERIES
Registered Owner:	HOP Props LLC	Rated Power:	75 Horsepower
Operator:	HOP Props LLC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	14 knots / 20 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	160°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Shepard, TX (XS99)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Shepard, TX (XS99)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Lake Water Wheels XS99	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	11	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	30.469165,-94.907501(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Yeager, Leah

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: October 4, 2011

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class](#)

Note: This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.

Investigation Docket: <https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=80828>

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