



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Farmingdale, New York	Accident Number:	ERA11CA442
Date & Time:	August 6, 2011, 13:30 Local	Registration:	N723AD
Aircraft:	Didier Siffer (E-AB) Arion Lightning	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, during touchdown on the runway, a gust of wind struck the right side of the airplane, and the left wing struck the ground. The airplane subsequently veered to the left and the pilot attempted to regain directional control with aileron inputs. The airplane departed the left side of the runway, struck an airport sign and came to rest in a grassy area. During the accident sequence, the airplane incurred substantial damage to the empennage and left wing. The pilot reported that there were no preexisting mechanical anomalies with the airplane. The pilot landed with a 14-knot quartering crosswind, gusting to 17 knots.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain directional control while landing in a strong quartering crosswind.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	High wind - Response/compensation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-flare/touchdown	Abnormal runway contact
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	46, 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 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 31, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	January 11, 2010
Flight Time:	91 hours (Total, all aircraft), 6 hours (Total, this make and model), 36 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Didier Siffer (E-AB)	Registration:	N723AD
Model/Series:	Arion Lightning	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	00115
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 31, 2011 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1320 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	50 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Jabiru
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	33A 2345
Registered Owner:	Didier Siffer	Rated Power:	120 Horsepower
Operator:	Didier Siffer	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FRG,80 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 2200 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	14 knots / 17 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	210°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / 19°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Hagerstown, MD (HGR)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Farmingdale, NY (FRG)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Republic Airport FRG	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Airport Elevation:	80 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	19	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5516 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	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:	40.721668,-73.42028(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gretz, Robert
Additional Participating Persons:	Conrad DePinto; FAA/FSDO; Farmingdale, NY
Original Publish Date:	October 17, 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.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=81407

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