



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	Accident Number:	ERA12CA266
Date & Time:	April 2, 2012, 12:26 Local	Registration:	N6902L
Aircraft:	Piper PA-60-602P	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot was cleared to land on runway 26. The recorded surface wind at the airport around the time of the accident was from 330 to 340 degrees at 14 to 18 knots, gusting to 25 knots; a peak wind gust from 350 degrees at 26 knots was recorded about 7 minutes after the accident. The pilot said that he landed on the left main gear with the right main intermittently touching the ground and tried to lower the right wing to improve wheel-to-runway contact but was unsuccessful because of a wind gust. The airplane swerved off the left side of the runway onto the soft grass area, where the airplane’s main landing gear collapsed, and both wings were substantially damaged. The pilot reported no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operations.

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 gusting crosswind conditions.

Findings

Personnel issues	(general) - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Flight instructor	Age:	66, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land; Multi-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 17, 2011
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 6, 2012
Flight Time:	3150 hours (Total, all aircraft), 929 hours (Total, this make and model), 29 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N6902L
Model/Series:	PA-60-602P	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	60-8265034
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 1, 2011 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	6300 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3693 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540 SER
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	300 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PHL,36 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	12:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 5000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	14 knots / 25 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	330°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.84 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	12°C / -2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Lock Haven, PA (LHV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	Philadelphia, PA (PHL)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	11:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Philadelphia International PHL	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	36 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	26	IFR Approach:	Global positioning system;Visual
Runway Length/Width:	5000 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

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:	39.869998,-75.237777(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Obregon, Jose
Additional Participating Persons:	Nicholes Evelich; FAA/FSDO; Philadelphia, PA
Original Publish Date:	October 15, 2012
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=83281

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