



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Fredericksburg, Texas	Accident Number:	CEN14LA447
Date & Time:	August 21, 2014, 14:50 Local	Registration:	N318MH
Aircraft:	HERDER MICHAEL ZODIAC 601 HD	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

After a cross-country flight and as the pilot approached his destination airport, he checked the wind. After flying a normal traffic pattern for runway 14, he made two unsuccessful landing attempts. On the third attempt, the airplane experienced a wind gust, and the airplane banked 90 degrees. The pilot applied power; however, the left wing impacted the runway. The airplane cartwheeled twice and then came to rest inverted next to the runway. There were no reported malfunctions with the airplane before the accident. A review of the airport's automated weather reporting station report indicated that, about the time of the accident, the airplane would have experienced about a 15-knot crosswind gusting to 20 knots. The accident is consistent with a loss of control during windy conditions.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's loss of airplane control during a gusting crosswind landing.

Findings

Environmental issues	Gusts - Contributed to outcome
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach	Other weather encounter
Approach-VFR pattern final	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Approach	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

On August 21, 2014, about 1450 central daylight time, a Zodiac 601 HD airplane, N318MH, impacted terrain near the Gillespie County Airport, (T82), Fredericksburg, Texas. The private rated pilot, sole occupant, was seriously injured and the airplane was substantially damaged. The airplane was registered to and operated by a Saavy Biz, Inc, Roanoke, Texas, under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 as a personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the flight, which operated without a flight plan.

According to the pilot, as he approached T82, the wind was 18 to 22 knots. He flew a normal traffic pattern to runway 14, but made two unsuccessful attempts to land. On his third attempt to land, while 100 feet above the runway at 55 knots, a wind gust hit the airplane and banked the airplane 90-degrees. The pilot reported that he applied power; however, the left wing impacted the runway. The airplane cartwheeled twice before coming to rest, inverted next to the runway.

There were no reported malfunctions with the airplane prior to the accident, and examination of the airplane revealed substantial damage to the fuselage, wings, and empennage. A review of the automated weather reporting station report, about the time of the accident, revealed that the pilot would have experienced a crosswind of about 15 knots gusting to 20 knots

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	64
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport pilot	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 14, 2014
Flight Time:	380 hours (Total, all aircraft), 145 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	HERDER MICHAEL	Registration:	N318MH
Model/Series:	ZODIAC 601 HD	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2010	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	6-7356
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 13, 2013 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	JABIRU
ELT:	C126 installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	3300
Registered Owner:	SAAVY BIZ INC	Rated Power:	120 Horsepower
Operator:	SAAVY BIZ INC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	T82	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	14:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	16 knots / 21 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	210°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.04 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	34°C / 15°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Hamilton, TX (KMNZ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Fredericksburg, TX (T82)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Gillespie County Airport T82	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1695 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	14	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5001 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Go around;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	30.248888,-98.91333

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hatch, Craig
Additional Participating Persons:	Victor Lopez; FAA FSDO; San Antonio, TX
Original Publish Date:	February 23, 2015
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=89931

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