



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Melfa, Virginia	Accident Number:	GAA16CA110
Date & Time:	January 19, 2016, 15:00 Local	Registration:	N3046H
Aircraft:	Piper PA32RT	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that while landing in crosswind conditions, a wind gust "forced" the airplane to drift to the right of the runway. The pilot initiated a go-around, but further reported that a "sudden drop" in the wind led to an aerodynamic stall.

After the airplane stalled, it impacted a structure adjacent to the runway. A postimpact fire ensued and the airplane was destroyed.

The pilot reported that there were no pre-impact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airframe or engine 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 inadequate compensation for a gusting crosswind during landing, which resulted in an aerodynamic stall, impact with a structure, and subsequent postimpact fire.

Findings

Aircraft	Crosswind correction - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Angle of attack - Capability exceeded

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Landing	Aerodynamic stall/spin
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Post-impact	Fire/smoke (post-impact)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	44, 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:	March 25, 2013
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 27, 2014
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 801 hours (Total, all aircraft), 440 hours (Total, this make and model), 706 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N3046H
Model/Series:	PA32RT 300	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1979	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	32R-7985046
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4600 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540
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:	KMFV,47 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	87°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 4300 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots / 37 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	310°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.25 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	-3°C / -14°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	MANASSAS, VA (HEF)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Melfa, VA (MFV)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	14:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	ACCOMACK COUNTY MFV	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	46 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	03	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5000 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Go around

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	37.646945,-75.762222(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Vanover, Jackie
Additional Participating Persons:	Jay Venable; FAA; Richmond, VA
Original Publish Date:	March 14, 2016
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=92614

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