



# **Aviation Investigation Final Report**

Location: Sedona, Arizona Accident Number: GAA19CA309

Date & Time: June 2, 2019, 11:50 Local Registration: N44249

Aircraft Damage: Substantial

**Defining Event:** Nose over/nose down **Injuries:** 1 Minor

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

#### **Analysis**

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, while landing, the airplane encountered a wind gust, and the tail started to rise. The pilot corrected by pulling the yoke "fully back," but subsequently, the airplane nosed over.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing lift strut.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The airport's automated weather observation station reported that, about 30 minutes after the accident, the wind was from 160° at 14 knots, gusting to 23 knots. The pilot was landing the airplane on runway 21.

#### **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 pitch control during landing in gusting wind conditions, which resulted in a nose-over.

### **Findings**

Personnel issues Aircraft control - Pilot

Aircraft Pitch control - Not attained/maintained

Environmental issues Gusts - Effect on equipment

Page 2 of 6 GAA19CA309

### **Factual Information**

### History of Flight

Landing	Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing	Nose over/nose down (Defining event)

#### **Pilot Information**

Certificate:	Private	Age:	64,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport pilot With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 16, 2006
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	January 11, 2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 690 hours (Total, all aircraft), 73 hours (Total, this make and model), 690 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Page 3 of 6 GAA19CA309

### **Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information**

Aircraft Make:	Taylorcraft	Registration:	N44249
Model/Series:	BC12 D	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1946	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	10049
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 21, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1619.7 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C91A installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	A65-8
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65 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:	KSEZ,4827 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:20 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	72°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 7500 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	14 knots / 23 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	160°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / 3°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Maricopa, AZ (A39)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Sedona, AZ (SEZ )	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	09:50 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Page 4 of 6 GAA19CA309

### **Airport Information**

Airport:	Sedona SEZ	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	4830 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
Runway Used:	21	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5132 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Go around;Traffic pattern

### Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	34.848609,-111.78833(est)

Page 5 of 6 GAA19CA309

#### **Administrative Information**

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gutierrez, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Daniel W Meeker ; FAA; Scottsdale, AZ
Original Publish Date:	November 6, 2019
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=99541

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, "accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person" (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB's statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available here.

Page 6 of 6 GAA19CA309