



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAILROAD



PIPELINE

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Albuquerque, New Mexico	Accident Number:	GAA18CA262
Date & Time:	May 7, 2018, 17:30 Local	Registration:	N632EP
Aircraft:	Cessna 182	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Nose over/nose down	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, while en route, the air was "unstable and choppy," and the airplane did not climb as expected. He added that the airplane "managed to climb to 9,500 [ft mean sea level] and maintain the altitude" but then had a "sudden and violent drop in altitude followed by a down draft." Subsequently, the airplane descended to 500 ft above the ground and was between two hills and still "struggling to climb." He observed what appeared to be a dirt plateau followed by a cliff and decided to land on the plateau to "avoid possibly falling off the cliff." During the landing, the airplane nosed over.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage, empennage, and right wing.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane 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 decision to continue flight in mountainous terrain with downdraft conditions, which necessitated a precautionary landing on unsuitable terrain.

Findings

Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
Environmental issues	Downdraft - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	(general) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Enroute	Other weather encounter
Enroute	Miscellaneous/other
Enroute	Off-field or emergency landing
Landing	Nose over/nose down (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	31,Male
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:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 1, 2017
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	September 14, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 112 hours (Total, all aircraft), 59 hours (Total, this make and model), 67 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Cessna	Registration:	N632EP
Model/Series:	182 Q	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1980	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18267695
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 20, 2017 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4070 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-470 SERIES
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	
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:	KAEG, 5837 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	28 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	23:47 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	169°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 8000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / Terrain-Induced
Wind Direction:	300°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / Severe
Altimeter Setting:	30.17 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / -4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	CARLSBAD, NM (CNM)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	FARMINGTON, NM (FMN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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:	35.595832,-106.901947(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	David Jones; FAA; Albuquerque, NM
Original Publish Date:	October 24, 2018
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=97205

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).