



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Big Bear, California	Accident Number:	GAA17CA354
Date & Time:	June 4, 2017, 13:20 Local	Registration:	N9238W
Aircraft:	Piper PA28	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Hard landing	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during the landing flare, the airplane encountered a "sudden massive gust of wind" that pitched the nose up. He pushed the yoke forward, but the wind shifted to a tailwind, and the airplane "slammed" onto the runway. Subsequently, the left main landing gear collapsed, the airplane veered right off the runway, and it then came to rest nose down.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing.

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

The automated weather observation system at the airport reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was from 260° at 4 knots. The pilot landed on runway 26.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's improper landing flare, which resulted in a hard landing and a subsequent loss of directional control.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Landing flare - Not attained/maintained
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Hard landing (Defining event)
Landing	Landing gear collapse
Landing	Runway excursion
Landing	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	59, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 11, 2016
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 3, 2015
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1047 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1047 hours (Total, this make and model), 18 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N9238W
Model/Series:	PA28 235	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1967	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	28-10908
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 1, 2016 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2950 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4409.6 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TIO-540 SER
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	310 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:	KL35,6752 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	20:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 11000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	260°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.35 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C / -1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	LOS ANGELES, CA (WHP)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Big Bear, CA (L35)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	12:40 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	BIG BEAR CITY L35	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	6752 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	26	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5850 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	34.263889,-116.853614(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Ricardo Hernandez; FAA; Riverside, CA
Original Publish Date:	September 7, 2017
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=95409

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.

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