



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Paris, Kentucky	Accident Number:	ERA23LA105
Date & Time:	January 5, 2023, 16:04 Local	Registration:	N6111W
Aircraft:	Piper PA-28-140	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 Minor, 2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot and two passengers were departing from a 2,800-ft-long turf runway and reported that prior to initiating the takeoff the wind was light and variable. During the initial climb after takeoff, and once the airplane had cleared a ridge and trees that ran parallel to the runway, the pilot reported that there was a “sudden windshear that caused a reduction in lift.” The pilot reduced the airplane’s pitch attitude in an attempt to regain lift, but the airplane continued to descend. The pilot was unable to arrest the descent and the airplane subsequently impacted the ground. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures of the airplane that would have precluded normal operation. The automated weather observation at an airport 9 miles away noted wind at 10 knots, with no gusts or other convective activity described.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot’s loss of control after encountering changing wind conditions during the initial climb, which resulted in descent and collision with terrain.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Angle of attack - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Variable wind - Response/compensation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Other weather encounter
Initial climb	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Uncontrolled descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Flight instructor	Age:	36, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 9, 2022
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	6000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 640 hours (Total, this make and model), 3177 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 188 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	Male
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	Male
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N6111W
Model/Series:	PA-28-140	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1964	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	28-20126
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 13, 2022 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2150 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	30 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2825 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-E2A
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	150 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:	27K,890 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	9 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	16:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	280°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Unknown	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 5000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	10 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	230°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	8°C / 0°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Paris, KY	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Waddy , KY (3KY9)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	WILD BLUE 31KY	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	890 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	34	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2800 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	38.2098,-84.253(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Alleyne, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Sean B. Smith; FAA/FSDO; Louisville , KY
Original Publish Date:	June 15, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=106552

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