



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Carlsbad, NM	Accident Number:	DFW08CA222
Date & Time:	08/31/2008, 1320 MDT	Registration:	N2699Y
Aircraft:	Fairchild SW3	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General Aviation - Positioning

Analysis

While en route to his destination, the 12,250-hour airline transport pilot experienced variations in the airplane's cabin pressure. The pilot removed his noise-cancelling headset and was able to detect an air leak from the area of the entrance door. Moments later, the airplane encountered turbulence and the door departed the airplane causing substantial damage to the fuselage. The pilot declared an emergency and was able to land at the nearest suitable airfield. During his preflight inspection, the pilot, who reported 5,200 hours in make and model, secured the door "normally," but could not recall if he visually confirmed that the door was secured. The fuselage door frame did not display signs of deformation where the entrance door's bayonets seat into the door frame. The door was not recovered and an examination for mechanical failure could not be conducted.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: Failure of the door to remain secure for undetermined reasons.

Findings

Occurrence #1: MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER
Phase of Operation: CRUISE

Findings

1. (C) DOOR,ENTRANCE STAIR - NOT SECURED

Factual Information

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	59, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	05/01/2008
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	05/01/2008
Flight Time:	12250 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5200 hours (Total, this make and model), 12000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 228 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 64 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Fairchild	Registration:	N2699Y
Model/Series:	SW3	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	AC666
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	08/01/2008, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	14500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	64.1 Hours	Engines:	2 Turbo Prop
Airframe Total Time:	30488.5 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Garrett
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	TPE-331
Registered Owner:	McNeely Charter Service Inc.	Rated Power:	
Operator:	McNeely Charter Service Inc.	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	On-demand Air Taxi (135)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	CNM	Observation Time:	1344 MDT
Distance from Accident Site:	30 Nautical Miles	Direction from Accident Site:	170°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 2400 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C / 18° C
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 3800 ft agl	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	13 knots, 130°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:		Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	EL PASO, TX (ELP)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	IFR
Destination:	CARLSBAD, NM (CNM)	Type of Clearance:	IFR
Departure Time:	1306 MDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	CAVERN CITY AIR TRML (CNM)	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	NA	IFR Approach:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Unknown

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	32.340278, 0.000000

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Jason T Aguilera	Adopted Date:	09/26/2008
Additional Participating Persons:	John D Dewitt; ABQ FSDO; Albuquerque, NM Bill Kelly; FAA FSDO; Little Rock, AR		
Publish Date:			
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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