



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|-------------|
| Location: | Atlanta, GA | Accident Number: | DCA14CA051 |
| Date & Time: | 01/31/2014, 0830 EST | Registration: | N921DL |
| Aircraft: | MCDONNELL DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT CO MD 88 | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Defining Event: | Ground handling event | Injuries: | 144 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 121: Air Carrier - Scheduled | | |

Analysis

Before departure and while the airplane was being de-iced by ground crew personnel, the de-icing bucket struck the left side of the fuselage and dislodged a passenger window. As a result, the airplane was substantially damaged and the pressure vessel was compromised. There were no reported injuries.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: Inattention by ground crew personnel which resulted in the airplane being substantially damaged.

Findings

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Personnel issues | Use of equip/system - Airport personnel (Cause) |
|------------------|---|

Factual Information

History of Flight

Prior to flight Ground handling event (Defining event)

Pilot Information

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--|------------|
| Certificate: | Airline Transport; Commercial | Age: | 55 |
| Airplane Rating(s): | Multi-engine Land | Seat Occupied: | Left |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | Glider | Restraint Used: | |
| Instrument Rating(s): | Airplane | Second Pilot Present: | Yes |
| Instructor Rating(s): | None | Toxicology Performed: | No |
| Medical Certification: | Class 1 Unknown | Last Medical Exam: | 10/08/2013 |
| Occupational Pilot: | Yes | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: | 12/11/2013 |
| Flight Time: | 11436 hours (Total, all aircraft), 6952 hours (Total, this make and model), 5484 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 191 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft) | | |

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Aircraft Manufacturer: | MCDONNELL DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT CO | Registration: | N921DL |
| Model/Series: | MD 88 88 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Year of Manufacture: | | Amateur Built: | No |
| Airworthiness Certificate: | Transport | Serial Number: | 49645 |
| Landing Gear Type: | Retractable - Tricycle | Seats: | 157 |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | 01/03/2014, Continuous Airworthiness | Certified Max Gross Wt.: | 160000 lbs |
| Time Since Last Inspection: | | Engines: | 2 Turbo Fan |
| Airframe Total Time: | 65507 Hours | Engine Manufacturer: | P&W |
| ELT: | Installed, not activated | Engine Model/Series: | JT8D |
| Registered Owner: | Wilmington Trust Co. | Rated Power: | |
| Operator: | Delta Airlines, Inc. | Air Carrier Operating Certificate: | Flag carrier (121) |
| Operator Does Business As: | | Operator Designator Code: | DALA |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | Visual Conditions | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | KATL, 1026 ft msl | Observation Time: | 1252 UTC |
| Distance from Accident Site: | 1 Nautical Miles | Direction from Accident Site: | 239° |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Few / 25000 ft agl | Temperature/Dew Point: | -4° C / -9° C |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility | 10 Miles |
| Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: | 3 knots, 320° | Visibility (RVR): | |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.2 inches Hg | Visibility (RVV): | |
| Precipitation and Obscuration: | No Obscuration; No Precipitation | | |
| Departure Point: | Atlanta, GA (ATL) | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | IFR |
| Destination: | MIAMI, FL (MIA) | Type of Clearance: | IFR |
| Departure Time: | EST | Type of Airspace: | |

Airport Information

| | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------|
| Airport: | HARTSFIELD - ATLANTA INTL (ATL) | Runway Surface Type: | N/A |
| Airport Elevation: | 1026 ft | Runway Surface Condition: | |
| Runway Used: | N/A | IFR Approach: | None |
| Runway Length/Width: | | VFR Approach/Landing: | None |

Wreckage and Impact Information

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 5 None | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | 139 None | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | N/A | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 144 None | Latitude, Longitude: | 33.636944, -84.428056 |

Administrative Information

| | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------|------------|
| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Timothy LeBaron | Adopted Date: | 09/01/2015 |
| Additional Participating Persons: | | | |
| Publish Date: | 09/15/2015 | | |
| Note: | This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB. | | |
| Investigation Docket: | http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=88755 | | |

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.