
Turbulence injuries, Boeing 757-200, June 5, 2001

Micro-summary: This Boeing 757-200 encountered turbulence during cruise, injuring two passengers.


Event Date: 2001-06-05 at 0858 CDT

Investigative Body: National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), USA

Investigative Body's Web Site: <http://www.nts.gov/>

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 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: CHI01LA154		Aircraft Registration Number: N563UA	
		Occurrence Date: 06/05/2001		Most Critical Injury: Serious	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Kokomo		State IN	Zip Code 46901	Local Time 0858	Time Zone CDT
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility: 115		Direction From Airport: 138	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series B757-200		Type of Aircraft Airplane	
Sightseeing Flight: No			Air Medical Transport Flight: No		
Narrative					
<p>Brief narrative statement of facts, conditions and circumstances pertinent to the accident/incident:</p> <p>On June 5, 2001, at 0858 central daylight time, a Boeing B757-200, N563UA, Flight 1597, operated by United Airlines (UAL) experienced turbulence while en route to O'Hare International Airport (ORD), Chicago, Illinois. The 14 CFR Part 121 passenger flight departed Fort Lauderdale Airport (FLL), Florida, at 0710 eastern daylight time with ORD as the destination airport. While en route the flight was diverting around thunderstorm activity. The pilots illuminated the seat belt sign due to the potential for turbulence. Around Kokomo, Indiana, the airplane encountered turbulence and subsequently one male passenger was seriously injured and one female passenger received minor injuries. Neither passenger was wearing their seat belt at the time of the incident. None of the other 143 passengers, 5 flight attendants, or 2 pilots were injured. The flight was on an instrument flight plan.</p> <p>A UAL safety representative reported, "The flight had descended from FL280 to FL240 in preparation for landing at ORD. The flight was deviating around thunderstorm activity 120NM southeast of ORD when turbulence was encountered between 1356 and 1358 UTC. Before starting the descent from FL280 to FL240, an announcement was made to the cabin that the FASTEN SEATBELT sign was on and that turbulence was expected during the descent."</p> <p>In the UAL Captain's written statement, he reported, "Before encountering turbulence the seat belt sign was turn[ed] on, and a P.A. announcement was made, specifying the possibility of turbulence during descent."</p> <p>In the UAL First Officer's written statement, he reported, "After we encountered the turbulence, we contacted the purser via the interphone. The purser informed us that there was one passenger in a lavatory with an injury to the head, and a second passenger also in a lavatory with a broken ankle."</p> <p>United Airlines was notified that the male passenger received a trimalleolar fracture to the left ankle.</p> <p>The male passenger, who received the serious injury, reported he had unfastened his seatbelt and proceeded to the lavatory at the rear of the airplane. He reported that the fasten seat belt sign was not illuminated when he left his seat, and that the flight deck had not issued any advisories while he was waiting for the lavatory. He reported that while he was in the lavatory, the airplane encountered turbulence that led to his ankle injury.</p> <p>The female passenger, who received a minor injury, reported she was in the lavatory when the airplane encountered turbulence. She reported that it was a freak accident and that all you could do was hold on.</p>					
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National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION





NTSB ID: CHI01LA154

Occurrence Date: 06/05/2001

Occurrence Type: Accident

Narrative (Continued)

 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: CHI01LA154				
		Occurrence Date: 06/05/2001				
		Occurrence Type: Accident				
Landing Facility/Approach Information						
Airport Name		Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:						
Runway Surface Condition:						
Type Instrument Approach:						
VFR Approach/Landing:						
Aircraft Information						
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series B757-200		Serial Number 26665		
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport						
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle						
Homebuilt Aircraft? No		Number of Seats: 191	Certified Max Gross Wt. 240000 LBS		Number of Engines: 2	
Engine Type: Turbo Fan		Engine Manufacturer: Pratt & Whitney		Model/Series: 2037	Rated Power: 37000 LBS	
- Aircraft Inspection Information						
Type of Last Inspection Continuous Airworthiness		Date of Last Inspection 02/2001	Time Since Last Inspection 948 Hours		Airframe Total Time 30255 Hours	
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information						
ELT Installed?		ELT Operated?		ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No		
Owner/Operator Information						
Registered Aircraft Owner UNITED AIRLINES, INC		Street Address 1200 E. Algonquin Rd				
		City Elk Grove		State IL	Zip Code 60007	
Operator of Aircraft Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner		Street Address Same as Reg'd Aircraft Owner				
		City		State	Zip Code	
Operator Does Business As: UNITED AIRLINES, INC				Operator Designator Code: UALA		
- Type of U.S. Certificate(s) Held:						
Air Carrier Operating Certificate(s): Flag Carrier/Domestic						
Operating Certificate:			Operator Certificate:			
Regulation Flight Conducted Under: Part 121: Air Carrier						
Type of Flight Operation Conducted: Scheduled; Domestic; Passenger Only						
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION						

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: CHI01LA154
	Occurrence Date: 06/05/2001
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth	Age 53
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Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Left	Principal Profession: Civilian Pilot	Certificate Number:
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Certificate(s): Airline Transport; Flight Engineer

Airplane Rating(s): Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: None

Instrument Rating(s): Airplane

Instructor Rating(s):

Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? Yes	Current Biennial Flight Review? 06/2000
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Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 03/2001
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- Flight Time Matrix	All A/C	This Make and Model	Airplane Single Engine	Airplane Multi-Engine	Night	Instrument		Rotorcraft	Glider	Lighter Than Air
						Actual	Simulated			
Total Time	9060	2364								
Pilot In Command(PIC)		2364								
Instructor										
Last 90 Days		177								
Last 30 Days		62								
Last 24 Hours		0								

Seatbelt Used? Yes	Shoulder Harness Used? Yes	Toxicology Performed? No	Second Pilot? Yes
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Flight Plan/Itinerary

Type of Flight Plan Filed: IFR

Departure Point FORT LAUDERDALE	State FL	Airport Identifier FLL	Departure Time 0636	Time Zone CDT
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Destination Chicago	State IL	Airport Identifier ORD	
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Type of Clearance: IFR

Type of Airspace: Class A

Weather Information

Source of Briefing: Company

Method of Briefing: Telephone

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Weather Information

WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
OKK	0926	EDT	596 Ft. MSL	35 NM	257 Deg. Mag.

Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Thin Overcast	1600 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day
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Lowest Ceiling: Overcast	1600 Ft. AGL	Visibility: 2.5	SM	Altimeter: 30.02	"Hg
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Temperature: 15 °C	Dew Point: 14 °C	Wind Direction: 130	Density Altitude: 629 Ft.
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Wind Speed: 9	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site:
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Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV) SM	Intensity of Precipitation:
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Restrictions to Visibility: None

Type of Precipitation: None

Accident Information

Aircraft Damage: None	Aircraft Fire: None	Aircraft Explosion: None
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Classification: U.S. Registered/U.S. Soil

- Injury Summary Matrix	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None	TOTAL
First Pilot				1	1
Second Pilot				1	1
Student Pilot					
Flight Instructor					
Check Pilot					
Flight Engineer					
Cabin Attendants				5	5
Other Crew					
Passengers		1	1	143	145
- TOTAL ABOARD -		1	1	150	152
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -		1	1	150	152

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



NTSB ID: CHI01LA154

Occurrence Date: 06/05/2001

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

Jim Silliman

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

Jeff Plantz
Sr. Staff Investigator
United Airlines
1200 East Algonquin Road
Elk Grove Township, IL 60007