
Turbulence injury, Boeing 757-200, May 29, 2002

Micro-summary: This Boeing 757-200 experienced turbulence on descent, seriously injuring a flight attendant.


Event Date: 2002-05-29 at 1308 EDT


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


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

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		NTSB ID: ATL02LA111		Aircraft Registration Number: N626DL	
		Occurrence Date: 05/29/2002		Most Critical Injury: Serious	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Atlanta		State GA	Zip Code 30320	Local Time 1308	Time Zone EDT
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility: 0		Direction From Airport: 270	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series 757-200		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 May 29, 2002, at 1308 eastern daylight time, a Boeing 757-200, N626DL, registered to Delta Airlines Inc, operating as Flight 721, encountered turbulence on descent to land at Hartsfield International Airport, Atlanta, Georgia. The domestic passenger flight was operated under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 121 with an instrument flight plan filed. Visual weather conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The airplane was not damaged. One flight attendant received serious injuries. The airline transport rated captain, the airline transport rated first officer and the 88 passengers were not injured. The passenger flight departed Chicago O'Hare International Airport, Chicago, Illinois, at 1040 central daylight time.</p> <p>According to the captain, flight 721 was cleared to descend out of flight level 240, and at this time the "fasten seat belt sign" was illuminated. The weather condition for the arrival consisted of broken clouds at approximately 10,000 feet. There were no reports of enroute or destination turbulence. Flight 721 was deviating around cumulonimbus clouds at approximately 11,500 feet over Rome, Georgia when the airplane entered an area of turbulence. The injured flight attendant was completing pre-landing checks for the cabin when the airplane encountered turbulence during the descent into Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport. The flight attendant was injured when she was jolted around the rear of the passenger cabin.</p> <p>According to the flight attendants, prior to the initial approach into Hartsfield International Airport, they were preparing both cabins and galleys for landing. Without any advanced warning they unexpectedly encountered severe turbulence that lasted for a brief period of time. This severe turbulence was then followed by moderate turbulence. After the moderate turbulence one of the aft flight attendants were injured and needed medical attention. The flight attendants notified the cockpit and requested paramedics after landing. The flight attendants received a return call confirming that paramedics were alerted and would meet the flight after landing.</p> <p>According to the lead flight attendant, the seat belt sign was turned on, and the airplane was on its initial descent into Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport. A passenger rang the call light for assistance with an ear pain. As the attendant went back towards the galley to get the passenger first aid, the airplane was suddenly jolted by turbulence. The flight attendant stated, she "flew into the air and was jarred around". When the turbulence stopped, the flight attendant hit the floor slid back towards the galley. The flight attendant called for assistance from another attendant, and contacted the captain to inform him of the situation. After the airplane landed paramedics came on board to administer first aid to the left foot of the injured flight attendant.</p>					
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 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: ATL02LA111			
		Occurrence Date: 05/29/2002			
		Occurrence Type: Accident			
Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation	Runway Used	Runway Length	Runway Width
THE WILLIAM B HARTSFIELD ATLAN	ATL	1026 Ft. MSL	8	9000	150
Runway Surface Type: Concrete					
Runway Surface Condition: Dry					
Type Instrument Approach: ILS-complete					
VFR Approach/Landing: Unknown					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer		Model/Series		Serial Number	
Boeing		757-200		22916	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport					
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle					
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats: 191	Certified Max Gross Wt.	232000 LBS	Number of Engines: 2	
Engine Type:	Engine Manufacturer:	Model/Series:	Rated Power:		
Turbo Fan	Pratt & Whitney	2037	37000 LBS		
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection		Date of Last Inspection	Time Since Last Inspection	Airframe Total Time	
Continuous Airworthiness		06/2002	6 Hours	51316 Hours	
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed? Yes	ELT Operated? No	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No			
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner		Street Address			
Wilmington Trust Co.		Rodney Square N.			
		City	State	Zip Code	
		Wilmington	DE	198901	
Operator of Aircraft		Street Address			
DELTA AIR LINES INC		Hartsfield Atlanta International			
		City	State	Zip Code	
		Atlanta	GA	30320	
Operator Does Business As: Delta Airlines Inc			Operator Designator Code: DALR		
- 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: ATL02LA111
	Occurrence Date: 05/29/2002
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth On File	Age 49
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Sex: M	Seat Occupied: Left	Principal Profession: Civilian Pilot	Certificate Number: On File
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Certificate(s): Airline Transport

Airplane Rating(s): Multi-engine Land

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: None

Instrument Rating(s): Airplane

Instructor Rating(s): None

Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? Yes	Current Biennial Flight Review? 05/2002
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Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: None	Date of Last Medical Exam: 02/2002
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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	17000	642								
Pilot In Command(PIC)										
Instructor										
Last 90 Days	165	165								
Last 30 Days										
Last 24 Hours	5	5								

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 CHICAGO	State IL	Airport Identifier ORD	Departure Time 1050	Time Zone CDT
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Destination ATLANTA	State GA	Airport Identifier ATL	
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Type of Clearance: Unknown

Type of Airspace: Class B

Weather Information

Source of Briefing: National Weather Service

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
ATL	1253	EDT	1026 Ft. MSL	NM	Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Scattered			5000 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day	
Lowest Ceiling: Broken		8000 Ft. AGL		Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: 30.01 "Hg
Temperature: 27 °C	Dew Point: 18 °C	Wind Direction: 80		Density Altitude: 2597 Ft.	
Wind Speed: 11	Gusts: 15	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV) SM	Intensity of Precipitation:			
Restrictions to Visibility: None					
Type of Precipitation: None					

Accident Information		
Aircraft Damage: None	Aircraft Fire: None	Aircraft Explosion: None

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		1		1	2
Other Crew					
Passengers				88	88
- TOTAL ABOARD -		1		91	92
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -		1		91	92

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



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Occurrence Date: 05/29/2002

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

Eric H. Alleyne

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

Darlene Perkins
Delta Certificate Management Office
1701 Columbia Avenue
College Park, GA 30337