
Turbulence injuries, Boeing 757-222, April 21, 2003

Micro-summary: This Boeing 757-222 experienced turbulence during cruise flight, injuring two flight attendants.


Event Date: 2003-04-21 at 1610 EDT


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: CHI03LA113		Aircraft Registration Number: N504UA	
		Occurrence Date: 04/21/2003		Most Critical Injury: Serious	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place Lithonia		State GA	Zip Code 30038	Local Time 1610	Time Zone EDT
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series 757-222		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 April 21, 2003, at 1610 eastern daylight time, a Boeing 757-222, N504UA, operated by United Airlines as flight 705, encountered turbulence during cruise at flight level (FL) 290 near Lithonia, Georgia. Instrument meteorological conditions with convective activity prevailed at the time of the accident. The 14 CFR Part 121 domestic passenger flight was operating on an instrument rules flight plan. One flight attendant received minor injuries and a second flight attendant received serious injuries. The 2 flight crew, 3 remaining flight attendants, and 179 passengers reported no injuries. The flight originated from Orlando International Airport, Orlando, Florida, at 1520, en route to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), Chicago, Illinois.</p> <p>The flight crew reported deviating for weather. Air traffic control (ATC) cleared them to descend to flight level (FL) 290. The flight crew reported they could see the "end of the line of showers" to the north and deviated further to avoid showers. ATC then cleared them to climb to FL 310. During the climb, they experienced four to five seconds of turbulence, described as "moderate with a strong updraft for a few seconds." When they exited the top of the cloud layer, they were contacted by a flight attendant who indicated one of the flight attendants had been seriously injured. The first officer requested medical assistance and contacted dispatch to request paramedics to meet the airplane at ORD.</p> <p>The injured flight attendant reported receiving a message from another flight attendant to return to her seat and strap in. She stated she was on her way back to her jump seat when the turbulence started. She reported she "flew into the air" and her left leg hit a counter in the galley. The flight attendant received a fracture to her left tibia and fibia. She stated that two doctors on board the airplane came to help her after the turbulence had subsided.</p> <p>The Federal Aviation Administration, Boeing, and UAL were parties to the investigation.</p>					
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 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: CHI03LA113			
		Occurrence Date: 04/21/2003			
		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: ILS-complete					
VFR Approach/Landing: Full Stop					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series 757-222		Serial Number 24625	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport					
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle					
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats: 188	Certified Max Gross Wt.	240000 LBS	Number of Engines: 2	
Engine Type: Turbo Fan	Engine Manufacturer: Pratt & Whitney	Model/Series: PW2037	Rated Power: 37000 LBS		
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection Continuous Airworthiness	Date of Last Inspection 03/2002	Time Since Last Inspection 3423 Hours	Airframe Total Time 44627 Hours		
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed? No	ELT Operated? No	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site? No			
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner United Airlines		Street Address P.O. Box 66100			
		City Chicago	State IL	Zip Code 60666	
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:			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: CHI03LA113
	Occurrence Date: 04/21/2003
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth On File	Age 42
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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; Commercial

Airplane Rating(s): Multi-engine Land; Single-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? 12/2002
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Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 12/2002
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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	8564	665		8564						
Pilot In Command(PIC)		665								
Instructor										
Last 90 Days		231		231						
Last 30 Days		83		83						
Last 24 Hours		6		6						

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 Orlando	State FL	Airport Identifier MCO	Departure Time 1502	Time Zone EDT
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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: Aircraft Radio

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	Occurrence Type: Accident

Weather Information


WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
ATL	1616	EDT	971 Ft. MSL	20 NM	90 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Few			2000 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Dusk	
Lowest Ceiling: Broken		4000 Ft. AGL		Visibility: 7 SM	Altimeter: 29.90 "Hg
Temperature: 22 °C	Dew Point: 18 °C	Wind Direction: 220		Density Altitude: Ft.	
Wind Speed: 7	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Instrument Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): Ft.	Visibility (RVV) SM	Intensity of Precipitation: Light			
Restrictions to Visibility: None					
Type of Precipitation: Rain					

Accident Information

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

- 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	3	5
Other Crew					
Passengers				179	179
- TOTAL ABOARD -		1	1	184	186
Other Ground					
- GRAND TOTAL -		1	1	184	186

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Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)
Mitchell F. Gallo

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

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