
Turbulence injury, Boeing 737-291A, June 11, 1997

Micro-summary: This Boeing 737-291A encountered clear air turbulence in which a flight attendant was seriously injured.


Event Date: 1997-06-11 at 1135 MDT


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


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

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1. Accident reports can be and sometimes are revised. Be sure to consult the investigative agency for the latest version before basing anything significant on content (e.g., thesis, research, etc).
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		NTSB ID: FTW97LA215		Aircraft Registration Number: N980UA	
		Occurrence Date: 06/11/1997		Most Critical Injury: Serious	
		Occurrence Type: Accident		Investigated By: NTSB	
Location/Time					
Nearest City/Place ALBUQUERQUE		State NM	Zip Code 87106	Local Time 1135	Time Zone MDT
Airport Proximity: Off Airport/Airstrip		Distance From Landing Facility:		Direction From Airport:	
Aircraft Information Summary					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series 737-291A		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 11, 1997, approximately 1135 mountain daylight time, a Boeing 737-291A, N980UA, operated by United Air Lines, Inc., as flight 441, sustained no damage when it encountered clear air turbulence while on descent to Albuquerque, New Mexico. One flight attendant was seriously injured, but there were no injuries to the airline transport rated captain and first officer, two other flight attendants, and 103 passengers. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and an IFR flight plan had been filed for the scheduled domestic passenger flight operated under Title 14 CFR Part 121. The flight originated at Denver, Colorado, approximately 1035.</p> <p>The following is based on information provided by a United Air Lines safety department spokesman. The airplane was descending through FL180 when the crew was advised of light to moderate turbulence. The captain instructed passengers and flight attendants to return to their seats and fasten their seatbelts. Shortly thereafter, the airplane encountered turbulence. Prior to getting into her seat and restraining herself, a flight attendant was injured when she struck her back against a seat armrest. Paramedics who examined her at the airport said she had sustained a contusion. The flight attendant continued in her duties on the return flight to Denver. She was later examined by her personal physician, and X-rays indicated she had fractured a bone in her shoulder.</p>					
FACTUAL REPORT - AVIATION					
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 National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION		NTSB ID: FTW97LA215			
		Occurrence Date: 06/11/1997			
		Occurrence Type: Accident			
Landing Facility/Approach Information					
Airport Name	Airport ID:	Airport Elevation Ft. MSL	Runway Used 0	Runway Length	Runway Width
Runway Surface Type:					
Runway Surface Condition:					
Type Instrument Approach: Visual					
VFR Approach/Landing: Full Stop					
Aircraft Information					
Aircraft Manufacturer Boeing		Model/Series 737-291A		Serial Number 21545	
Airworthiness Certificate(s): Transport					
Landing Gear Type: Retractable - Tricycle					
Homebuilt Aircraft? No	Number of Seats: 116	Certified Max Gross Wt.	117000 LBS	Number of Engines: 2	
Engine Type: Turbo Fan	Engine Manufacturer: P&W	Model/Series: JT8D-9A	Rated Power: 14500 LBS		
- Aircraft Inspection Information					
Type of Last Inspection Continuous Airworthiness	Date of Last Inspection 04/1997	Time Since Last Inspection 229 Hours	Airframe Total Time 49886 Hours		
- Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) Information					
ELT Installed? No	ELT Operated?	ELT Aided in Locating Accident Site?			
Owner/Operator Information					
Registered Aircraft Owner UNITED AIR LINES		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					

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: FTW97LA215
	Occurrence Date: 06/11/1997
	Occurrence Type: Accident

First Pilot Information

Name On File	City On File	State On File	Date of Birth On File	Age 43
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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; Flight Instructor; Commercial; Flight Engineer

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

Rotorcraft/Glider/LTA: None

Instrument Rating(s): Airplane

Instructor Rating(s): Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Instrument Airplane

Type Rating/Endorsement for Accident/Incident Aircraft? Yes	Current Biennial Flight Review?
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Medical Cert.: Class 1	Medical Cert. Status: Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Date of Last Medical Exam: 03/1997
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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	12000	80								
Pilot In Command(PIC)	10000	65								
Instructor										
Last 90 Days	78	78								
Last 30 Days	35	35								
Last 24 Hours	1	1								

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	
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Departure Point DENVER	State CO	Airport Identifier DEN	Departure Time 0000	Time Zone
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Destination Same as Accident/Incident Location	State	Airport Identifier ABQ	
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Type of Clearance: IFR

Type of Airspace: Class D

Weather Information

Source of Briefing:
Company

Method of Briefing:

 <p>National Transportation Safety Board FACTUAL REPORT AVIATION</p>	NTSB ID: FTW97LA215
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Weather Information					
WOF ID	Observation Time	Time Zone	WOF Elevation	WOF Distance From Accident Site	Direction From Accident Site
ABQ	1200	MDT	5352 Ft. MSL	5 NM	260 Deg. Mag.
Sky/Lowest Cloud Condition: Clear			0 Ft. AGL	Condition of Light: Day	
Lowest Ceiling: None		0 Ft. AGL	Visibility: 10 SM	Altimeter: 30.00	"Hg
Temperature: 26 °C	Dew Point: -1 °C	Wind Direction: 280		Density Altitude: 7495	Ft.
Wind Speed: 6	Gusts:	Weather Conditions at Accident Site: Visual Conditions			
Visibility (RVR): 0 Ft.	Visibility (RVV) 0 SM	Intensity of Precipitation: Unknown			
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		2	3
Other Crew					
Passengers				103	103
- TOTAL ABOARD -		1		107	108
Other Ground	0	0	0		0
- GRAND TOTAL -	0	1	0	107	108

National Transportation Safety Board

FACTUAL REPORT

AVIATION



NTSB ID: FTW97LA215

Occurrence Date: 06/11/1997

Occurrence Type: Accident

Administrative Information

Investigator-In-Charge (IIC)

ARNOLD W. SCOTT

Additional Persons Participating in This Accident/Incident Investigation:

KERRY D RAY

FAA FSDO

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87106