

EAA CHAPTER 1445
MARCH AVIATION ACCIDENT SUMMARY
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The following are the reports of aviation accidents that have occurred in Arizona from late February, thru late March. APA will use this detailed accident information to develop safety programs, briefings, and posters/flyers that would help pilots learn from the mistakes being made by others, and take the action necessary to prevent them from having similar accidents.

Aviation safety was really pretty good this past reporting period, especially when compared to what happened last month, but the accidents that did happen this last period really shouldn't have happened, needless to say. The first accident in this report was late in getting released, and didn't make last month's deadline, so it's being included in this report. In reality, this first item really is not so much of an accident but more of an incident because of the relatively minor aircraft damage. However, it had the potential of being a serious accident if the bird had penetrated the windshield and struck the pilot causing him to lose control of the aircraft. The next to last accident in this report (a Kitfox) probably shouldn't really be included as an accident either because there wasn't any aircraft damage incurred, but it does illustrate the point that, no matter what happens in flight, keep a cool head and don't stop flying the airplane, even after it safely touches down on the ground, and then wait until it comes to a safe controlled stop before you then relax, not before. Fortunately none of the six accidents listed involved any fatalities, only some bent airplanes and some injuries. Review the following limited information we have, and please, try not to make similar errors.

The NTSB finally launched their new accident reporting website. Unfortunately it's not very useful in providing helpful information. It does advise that an accident has occurred that involved structural damage to an airplane, the date, the airplane type, and if a Preliminary Report is in process. If a Preliminary Report is in process, copies of NTSB forms are available with Aircraft/Operator Information, Meteorological Information and Flight Plan, and Wreckage and Impact Information with only single word responses to form items. No preliminary report details are provided as before. The only information really available is that a structurally damaged aircraft accident has occurred with date and location. Unfortunately, I haven't found a way to get the site to sort which accidents each month had occurred in Arizona. Unfortunately the "New and Improved" NTSB website isn't very useful in preparing monthly informational reports for you. In the mean time we'll continue with the limited information reports from the Aviation Safety Network (ASN), and the SDL-FSDO until something else happens.

THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS PROVIDED BY THE ASN, FAA, AND APA MEMBERS

Date: February 16, 2021
Location: Gila Bend
Aircraft: Piper PA28-181

Injuries: 1 Uninjured

BIRD STRIKE ON TAKEOFF

The aircraft experienced a bird strike to the windshield during take off from Gila Bend airport (E63). The pilot was uninjured, and damage extent was unknown.

Accident Date: February 26, 2021

Location: Tucson

Aircraft Type: Beech G35

Injuries: 1 Uninjured

GEAR UP LANDING

The aircraft sustained unspecified damage, and the pilot was uninjured when the airplane made a gear up landing on runway 11L at TUS

Accident Date: March 11, 2021

Location: Arlington

Aircraft Type: CubCrafters Carbon Cub CC11-160

Injuries: 2 Uninjured

OFF AIRPORT LANDING

The aircraft sustained substantial damage upon impact with cacti during an off-airport landing in Maricopa County at Arlington. The sole pilot onboard the tailwheel equipped airplane received serious injuries.

Accident Date: March 16, 2021

Location: Phoenix

Aircraft Type: Piper PA46-350P

Injuries: 1 Uninjured

LOSS OF CONTROL LANDING

The aircraft departed Farmington, NM (FMN) with a destination of Phoenix Deer Valley airport (DVT). Upon landing at DVT the airplane veered off the runway. Damage was unreported.

Accident Date: March 17, 2021

Location: Mesa

Aircraft Type: Denny Kitfox III

Injuries: 1 Uninjured

LOSS OF CONTROL LANDING

The aircraft, an experimental Donald F Laurence amateur built Kitfox III, experienced a loss of directional control and subsequent runway excursion during a precautionary return to the point of departure at Falcon Field Airport (FFZ), Mesa. The tailwheel equipped airplane was not damaged and the sole pilot onboard was not injured during the incident.

Accident Date: March 28, 2021

Location: Avra Valley

Aircraft Type: Cirrus SR22 GTS

Injuries: 2 Uninjured

FORCED LANDING ON DESERT ROAD

The Cirrus SR22 aircraft departed Tucson International Airport (TUS) and shortly after made a forced landing in the desert on Pump Station Road in the Avra Valley area. The extent of aircraft damage was undetermined, however the two people onboard were uninjured.