

Narrative History Of Flight

At 7:45 AM we were departing runway 25 at Schaffer Meadows (8U2). Levi Schmid (Pilot), Matt Hulslander (passenger), McKenna Hulslander (passenger), and a couple of bags. It was about 55 degrees Fahrenheit with a density altitude of 3200 ft. We were airborne by the ranger station and had an excellent climb. We reached the tops of the trees and were above the Treeline (a passenger even took a photo at this point). We experienced extreme windshear and had a enormous downdraft with a loss of at least 100 feet instantly followed by a 1500-2000 FPM rate of decent. With the sudden loss of altitude and still descending, the aircraft couldn't overcome the downdraft. We were dropped below the tree line at this point and there was no way we would clear the trees. I made a PIC decision to make a forced landing to avoid going into the trees to keep me and my passengers as safe as possible. I knew I needed to get on the runway immediately because we didn't have much runway left. We landed main wheels first followed by the nose wheel. Do to the hard impact, we bounced and the aircraft flipped over the nose. We ended upside down at a complete stop. Once I verified everyone was okay, we evacuated the aircraft immediately.

Recommendation

The accident was due to unpredictable weather. The winds were calm on the ground and there was no indication that anything would have been any different. With the wind shear that was experienced, I did everything possible to keep the passengers and myself on board safe. Any other decision would have jeopardized our safety.