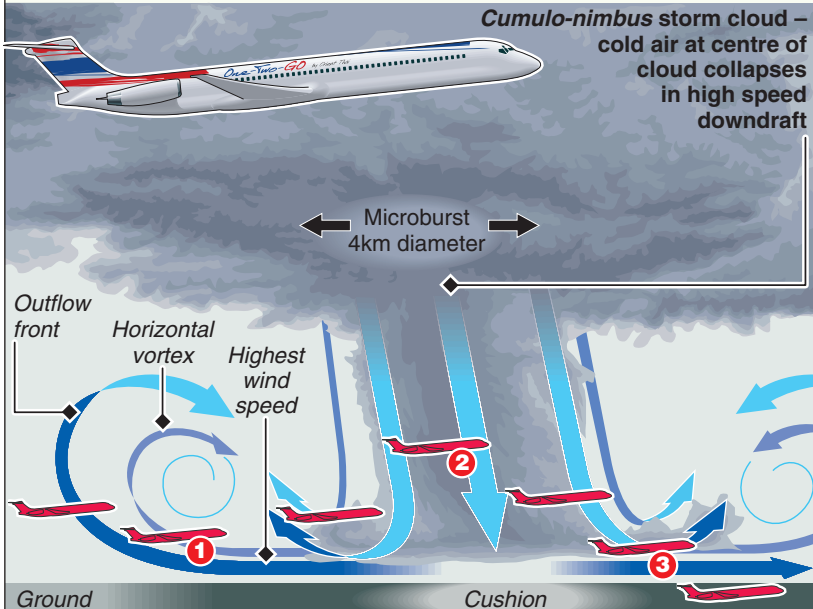


Microburst suspected for Thai crash

Investigators suspect the Thai airliner which crashed in Phuket may have been brought down by a “microburst” wind shear – a sudden change in wind speed or direction. One of the most dangerous weather phenomena for pilots, it has caused at least six fatal crashes in the last 20 years



1 HEADWIND:
Slows plane as it comes in to land

2 DOWNDRAFT: Plane speed rises rapidly, increasing lift. Pilot attempts to slow plane and reduce altitude

3 TAILWIND: Airspeed drops further – plane suddenly loses altitude

Source: NOAA

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