



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Wasilla, Alaska	Accident Number:	ANC18CA068
Date & Time:	August 25, 2018, 14:10 Local	Registration:	N5392Y
Aircraft:	Piper PA18	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during the landing roll on a private grass airstrip, the left main landing gear wheel became caught in the ditch that was obscured by long grass along the edge of the runway. He subsequently lost directional control, and the airplane rolled into the ditch and nosed over, which resulted in substantial damage to the wings, vertical stabilizer, and rudder. The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to maintain directional control during the landing roll when the left main landing gear wheel got caught in a ditch, which resulted in a subsequent nose-over.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Sloped/uneven terrain - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Abnormal runway contact
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion
Landing-landing roll	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	79,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 10, 2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 6400 hours (Total, all aircraft), 6100 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N5392Y
Model/Series:	PA18 150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1964	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	18-8145
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 SERIES
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	PAWS,354 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	6 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	22:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	204°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Birchwood, AK (BCV)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Birchwood, AK (BCV)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Todds Strip 5AK5	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf;Gravel
Airport Elevation:	492 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Holes;Vegetation
Runway Used:	07	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1500 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	61.657501,-149.459716(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Price, Noreen
Additional Participating Persons:	William Bohman; Federal Aviation Administration; Wasilla, AK
Original Publish Date:	August 3, 2020
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98189

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).