



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Denver, Colorado Accident Number: GAA19CA211

Date & Time: April 16, 2019, 11:15 Local Registration: N755K

Aircraft: Tubbs S/Performance Air Inc PA-18-225 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Loss of control on ground **Injuries:** 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

The pilot in the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that he made a three-point landing. During the landing roll, the airplane veered left, and he corrected with right rudder and right brake. Subsequently, the airplane ground looped to the right, the left main landing gear collapsed, and the left wing struck the ground.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing spar.

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, which resulted in a ground-loop.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained

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Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)	
Landing-landing roll	Attempted remediation/recovery	
Landing-landing roll	Landing gear collapse	
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)	

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	59
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 1, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	June 4, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1234 hours (Total, all aircraft), 491 hours (Total, this make and model), 1100 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Tubbs S/Performance Air Inc	Registration:	N755K
Model/Series:	PA-18-225	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2005	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	PA 0105
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 4, 2018 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	624.8 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	0-360-C4P
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
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:	KAPA,5883 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	03:52 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	90°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	11 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.71 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	19°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Denver, CO (APA)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Denver, CO (APA)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	10:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

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Airport Information

Airport:	Centennial APA	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	5885 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	28	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4800 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop:Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	39.569999,-104.849441(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael Aubry; FAA; Denver, CO
Original Publish Date:	November 6, 2019
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=99280

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.

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