



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Montague, California	Accident Number:	WPR18LA105
Date & Time:	March 10, 2018, 16:55 Local	Registration:	N6611J
Aircraft:	Piper PA 28-180	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision during takeoff/land	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during takeoff following a touch-and-go landing, the airplane would not climb. The pilot subsequently performed a forced landing, during which the airplane contacted power lines and terrain, resulting in substantial damage to the wings and fuselage.

Following the accident, the engine was successfully run on the airframe at various power settings with no anomalies noted. Flight control continuity was established throughout the airframe, and there was no evidence of any preimpact malfunctions or anomalies that would have precluded normal operation of the airplane. Given the available information, the reason for the impact with powerlines and terrain after takeoff could not be determined.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

Impact with powerlines and terrain after takeoff for reasons that could not be determined based on the available information.

Findings

Not determined	(general) - Unknown/Not determined
Aircraft	Climb rate - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event)
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On March 10, 2018, about 1655 Pacific standard time, a Piper PA-28-180, N6611J, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Montague, California. The pilot and two passengers were not injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

The pilot reported that he was performing touch-and-go takeoffs and landings when he "took off and something wasn't right." The pilot explained that the engine did not lose power, but the airplane was not "producing lift." The pilot performed a forced landing, during which the airplane contacted power lines and subsequently impacted terrain about 1 mile east of the runway.

Examination of the airplane revealed substantial damage to the wings and fuselage. Flight control continuity was established from the cockpit controls to the respective flight control surfaces. The wing flap torque tubes were consistent with the flaps being retracted at the time of impact. The propeller remained attached to the engine. Both propeller blades exhibited chordwise scoring and leading-edge gouges. The engine remained attached to the fuselage and displayed no major visible impact damage. During a test run, the engine ran smoothly and continuously at various power settings. There was no evidence of preimpact mechanical malfunctions or anomalies that would have precluded normal operation.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	22, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 27, 2013
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	June 13, 2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 239.1 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	24, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	23
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N6611J
Model/Series:	PA 28-180 180	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1968	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	28-5073
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 13, 2017 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5812.7 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A4A
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:	KSIY, 2651 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	5 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	00:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	48°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 7000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	250°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.93 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	12°C / 4°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Montague, CA (105)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Montague, CA (105)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	16:55 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Montague-Yreka Rohrer Field 105	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	2527 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	33	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3360 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	41.729442,-122.544998(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Smith, Maja		
Additional Participating Persons:	Damian Galbraith; Piper; Vero Beach, FL Erik D Ramseyer; FSDO; Portland, OR		
Original Publish Date:	May 20, 2021	Investigation Class:	3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=96871		

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