



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Porterville, California	Accident Number:	GAA18CA579
Date & Time:	August 31, 2018, 11:10 Local	Registration:	N8172N
Aircraft:	Piper PA28	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that she initiated the landing flare and that the airplane floated about 100 ft and landed normally. About 400 ft into the landing roll, the airplane veered right, exited the right side of the runway, and collided with taxiway lights before coming to rest.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the lower fuselage intermediate bulkhead.

The pilot reported that, during landing, the windsock indicated "no wind." However, after the accident, she and her passenger saw dust devils close to the runway.

The pilot reported that there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The airport's METAR reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was variable at 6 knots. The pilot landed the airplane on runway 30.

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.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Dust devil/whirlwind - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Runway/taxi/approach light - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	76,Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 25, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	June 9, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 3455 hours (Total, all aircraft), 113 hours (Total, this make and model), 3455 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 29 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N8172N
Model/Series:	PA28 181	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1980	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	28-8090261
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	January 12, 2018 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1950 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	7766 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C126 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A4M
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KPTV, 442 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	202°
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:	30.03 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	23°C / 14°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	El Cajon, CA (SEE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Porterville, CA (PTV)	Type of Clearance:	VFR flight following
Departure Time:	08:50 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Porterville Muni PTV	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	443 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	30	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5960 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	36.029445,-119.062774(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Troy Wise; FAA; Fresno, CA
Original Publish Date:	September 26, 2019
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=98411

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