



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Fullerton, California	Accident Number:	WPR23LA119
Date & Time:	February 15, 2023, 12:40 Local	Registration:	N8318C
Aircraft:	Piper PA28	Aircraft Damage:	Unknown
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The flight instructor reported that while practicing crosswind landings a gust of wind pushed the airplane left. The flight instructor took the controls and applied right rudder and added power to go around, but the airplane impacted a taxiway sign before it transitioned into a climb. According to the instructor, the airplane did not exhibit any abnormal flight characteristics once airborne. After confiding with the tower, they returned to the airplane base where substantial damage was found to the left wing.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions 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 student pilot's failure to maintain control of the airplane during the landing roll and the flight instructor's delayed remedial action, which resulted in an impact with an obstacle.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Delayed action - Instructor/check pilot
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Other weather encounter
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing-aborted after touchdown	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	41,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 1, 2023
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	14 hours (Total, all aircraft), 11 hours (Total, this make and model), 0 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Flight instructor Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	51,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 2 None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	April 25, 2023
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 22, 2021
Flight Time:	850 hours (Total, all aircraft), 19 hours (Total, this make and model), 763 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 137 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 56 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N8318C
Model/Series:	PA28 151	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1975	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	28-7615087
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2325 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3793 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-E3D
Registered Owner:	SALE REPORTED	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	SALE REPORTED	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KFUL, 86 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	270°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.16 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / -11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Fullerton, CA (KFUL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Fullerton, CA	Type of Clearance:	VFR; None
Departure Time:	12:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

Airport Information

Airport:	FULLERTON MUNI KFUL	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	96 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	24	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3121 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and go;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 None	Aircraft Damage:	Unknown
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	33.872014,-117.97978

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Johnson, Scott
Additional Participating Persons:	Joseph A Steele; Federal Aviation Administration; CA
Original Publish Date:	June 23, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=106835

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).