



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Somerset, Kentucky	Accident Number:	ERA23LA199
Date & Time:	April 8, 2023, 08:55 Local	Registration:	N2448R
Aircraft:	Piper PA28	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The solo student pilot was taking off in gusting wind and described that shortly after rotation, he saw the stall warning light illuminate. He reported that although the engine was developing full power and he leveled off to regain airspeed, the airplane settled back onto the runway and “pulled left.” Despite the pilot’s attempt to keep the airplane on the runway, it departed the runway, impacted an instrument landing system antenna, crossed a taxiway, and then came to rest. The left wing was substantially damaged. The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical failures or malfunctions of 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 control of the airplane during the takeoff, which resulted in a runway excursion and collision with an airport navigation antenna.

Findings

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

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff	Runway excursion
Takeoff	Collision during takeoff/land

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	64,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 2, 2022
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 8, 2023
Flight Time:	68 hours (Total, all aircraft), 23 hours (Total, this make and model), 12 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N2448R
Model/Series:	PA28 180	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1970	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal; Utility	Serial Number:	28-5624
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 31, 2023 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	0 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5616 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O360-A4A
Registered Owner:	On file	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:	SME, 927 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:55 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	53°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 4200 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	Unknown / Unknown
Wind Direction:	70°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	Unknown / Unknown
Altimeter Setting:	30.29 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	9°C / -2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Somerset, KY	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Lexington, KY (LEX)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	LAKE CUMBERLAND RGNL SME	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	927 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	5	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5801 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	37.050958, -84.620018(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Spencer, Lynn
Additional Participating Persons:	Danny Gregory; FAA/FSDO; Louisville, KY
Original Publish Date:	June 29, 2023
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=107078

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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](#).