

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Alamosa, Colorado Accident Number: CEN24LA055

Date & Time: December 6, 2023, 14:26 Local Registration: N7790Y

Aircraft: Piper PA-30 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Loss of control on ground **Injuries:** 2 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

Analysis

The pilot of the personal flight stated that he was the flying pilot and was seated in the right pilot seat with a passenger rated pilot seated in the left pilot seat. The pilot stated during landing that perhaps the airplane bounced. The airplane was right of the runway centerline and not pointed down the runway. The pilot stated that he corrected to the left and the airplane skidded off the runway and into a dirt area. The airplane's left main landing gear collapsed, and the airplane sustained substantial damage that included damage to the left wing.

Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast data showed that the airplane crossed the runway approach end with a ground speed of approximately 113 kts during calm wind conditions. The airplane's ground speed was approximately 70 kts about 4,000 ft down the runway when it began to veer off the runway. The Piper Aircraft PA-30 Owner's Handbook states that the final approach speed for the airplane is 100 mph (86.9 kts). The bounce during landing was consistent with an excessive touchdown speed after a final approach flown at a speed higher than that specified for the airplane.

The pilot stated that was no mechanical malfunction/failure of the airplane that would have precluded normal airplane 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 landing with an excessive touchdown speed that resulted in a loss of control and impact with terrain.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Aircraft	Airspeed - Not specified

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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:	Airline transport; Flight instructor	Age:	63,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 16, 2023
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	November 17, 2023
Flight Time:	16100 hours (Total, all aircraft), 250 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Pilot-rated passenger Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	43,Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Lap only
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 20, 2022
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N7790Y
Model/Series:	PA-30	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1965	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	30-146
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 1, 2023 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3725 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3789 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	10-320
Registered Owner:	ZULU HOLDINGS LLC	Rated Power:	160 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:	ALS,7540 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:52 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.28 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	11°C / -8°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Alamosa, CO	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Alamosa, CO	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

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Airport Information

Airport:	San Luis Valley Regional Airport/Bergman Field ALS	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	7540 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	2	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	8521 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	37.435125,-105.86787(est)

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gallo, Mitchell
Additional Participating Persons:	Joshua Friederichs; Federal Aviation Administration, Denver FSDO; Denver, CO
Original Publish Date:	February 8, 2024
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=193486

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

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.

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