



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Lockhart, Texas	Accident Number:	CEN24LA132
Date & Time:	March 6, 2024, 13:00 Local	Registration:	N7710J
Aircraft:	Pietenpol Aircamper	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, shortly after takeoff from runway 18, the airplane moved laterally to the left. The pilot tried to correct by inputting right rudder and right aileron. The left wing rose abruptly, and the airplane crossed to the right side of the runway. The airplane lost lift and landed in the grass on the right side of the runway. The pilot attempted to stop, but the airplane slid into a drainage ditch. The airplane sustained substantial damage 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. The pilot reported swirling wind contributed to the loss of control. The reported wind at an airport 10 miles northwest was 150° at 6 kts.

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 during after takeoff.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation
Aircraft	(general) - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Other weather encounter
Takeoff	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Takeoff	Attempted remediation/recovery
Takeoff	Runway excursion

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport	Age:	82, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	BasicMed Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 22, 2022
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	June 23, 2023
Flight Time:	8070 hours (Total, all aircraft), 288 hours (Total, this make and model), 7663 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Pietenpol	Registration:	N7710J
Model/Series:	Aircamper No Series Exists	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2012	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	001
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 17, 2023 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1150 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	288.5 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	C91 installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	A-65-3
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65 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:	KHYI	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	12:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	150°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.9 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C / 18°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Lockhart, TX (50R)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Lockhart, TX (50R)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Lockhart Municipal 50R	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	531 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	18	IFR Approach:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:	4001 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	29.85,-97.67(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Abraham, Laura
Additional Participating Persons:	Steve Henderson; FAA; San Antonio, TX
Original Publish Date:	May 29, 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=193913

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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](#).