



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Angel Fire, New Mexico	Accident Number:	WPR22LA269
Date & Time:	July 23, 2022, 10:33 Local	Registration:	N926WM
Aircraft:	MILLER-THORP T-18 TIGER	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during the landing roll, he encountered a gusting left crosswind. He was unable to maintain directional control and the airplane veered off the runway to the left. The airplane subsequently collided with a drainage ditch and nosed over coming to rest inverted. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the vertical stabilizer. 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 pilot’s failure to maintain directional control during the landing roll in gusting wind.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	63, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane single-engine	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 27, 2021
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 30, 2022
Flight Time:	1895 hours (Total, all aircraft), 800 hours (Total, this make and model), 1799 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Passenger Information

Certificate:		Age:	Female
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	MILLER-THORP	Registration:	N926WM
Model/Series:	T-18 TIGER	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1979	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	279-1
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 14, 2022 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1500 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1825 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-A2B
Registered Owner:	On file	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:	KAXX,8380 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0.5 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	10:14 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	270°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	290°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.41 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	22°C / 10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Angel Fire, NM	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Angel Fire, NM	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	ANGEL FIRE AIRPORT KAXX	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	8379 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	35	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	8900 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	36.422,-105.2899(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Johnson, Scott
Additional Participating Persons:	Jose Figueroa; Federal Aviation Administration; Albuquerque, NM David Jones POI; Federal Aviation Administration; Albuquerque, NM
Original Publish Date:	September 22, 2022
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=105573

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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](#).