



# **Aviation Investigation Final Report**

Location: LONGMONT, Colorado Accident Number: DEN87LA223

Date & Time: August 20, 1987, 09:45 Local Registration: N4700M

Aircraft: PIPER PA-11 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

**Defining Event:** 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

#### **Analysis**

THE PLT WAS ATTEMPTING TO LAND HIS RENTED ACFT ON RUNWAY 29 AT LONGMONT MUNICIPAL AIRPORT WHEN THE ACFT TOUCHED DOWN, BOUNCED, VEERED OFF OF THE RUNWAY, STRUCK A VASI LIGHT, AND NOSED OVER.

#### **Probable Cause and Findings**

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

#### **Findings**

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

#### **Findings**

1. (C) FLARE - MISJUDGED - PILOT IN COMMAND

- 2. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL NOT MAINTAINED PILOT IN COMMAND
- 3. (C) GROUND LOOP/SWERVE UNCONTROLLED PILOT IN COMMAND
- 4. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE IN TYPE OF AIRCRAFT PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

**Findings** 

### 5. (C) OBJECT - APPROACH LIGHT/NAVAID

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Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

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## **Factual Information**

#### **Pilot Information**

| Certificate:              | Commercial  | Age:                              | 28,Male |
|---------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Airplane Rating(s):       | Single-engine land; Multi-engine land   | Seat Occupied:                    | Center  |
| Other Aircraft Rating(s): | None  | Restraint Used:                   |         |
| Instrument Rating(s):     | Airplane  | Second Pilot Present:             | No      |
| Instructor Rating(s):     | None  | Toxicology Performed:             | No      |
| Medical Certification:    | Class 1 Valid Medical–w/<br>waivers/lim   | Last FAA Medical Exam:            |         |
| Occupational Pilot:       | Yes   | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: |         |
| Flight Time:              | 1094 hours (Total, all aircraft), 3 hours (Total, this make and model), 957 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |                                   |         |

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## **Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information**

| Aircraft Make:                | PIPER  | Registration:                     | N4700M          |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Model/Series:                 | PA-11 PA-11  | Aircraft Category:                | Airplane        |
| Year of Manufacture:          |  | Amateur Built:                    |                 |
| Airworthiness Certificate:    | Normal   | Serial Number:                    | 11 209          |
| Landing Gear Type:            | Tailwheel  | Seats:                            | 2               |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | December 5, 1986 Annual                                | Certified Max Gross Wt.:          | 1220 lbs        |
| Time Since Last Inspection:   | 90 Hrs   | Engines:                          | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time:          | 5915 Hrs   | Engine Manufacturer:              | CONTINENTAL     |
| ELT:                          | Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident | Engine Model/Series:              | C-90            |
| Registered Owner:             | JOHNNY D SMITH   | Rated Power:                      | 90 Horsepower   |
| Operator:                     | BOULDER FLYING SERVICE                                 | Operating Certificate(s)<br>Held: | None            |
| Operator Does Business As:    |  | Operator Designator Code:         |                 |

### **Meteorological Information and Flight Plan**

| Meteorological informati         | on and ingite itali       |                                      |             |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site:     | Visual (VMC)              | Condition of Light:                  | Day         |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: |                           | Distance from Accident Site:         |             |
| Observation Time:                |                           | Direction from Accident Site:        |             |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>   | Scattered / 15000 ft AGL  | Visibility                           | 15 miles    |
| Lowest Ceiling:                  | None                      | Visibility (RVR):                    |             |
| Wind Speed/Gusts:                | /                         | Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:     | /           |
| Wind Direction:                  | 0°                        | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | /           |
| Altimeter Setting:               |                           | Temperature/Dew Point:               | 27°C        |
| Precipitation and Obscuration:   | No Obscuration; No Precip | itation                              |             |
| Departure Point:                 | BOULDER , CO (IV5)        | Type of Flight Plan Filed:           | None        |
| Destination:                     | LONGMONT , CO (2V2        | Type of Clearance:                   | Special IFR |
| Departure Time:                  | 09:00 Local               | Type of Airspace:                    | Class G     |

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## **Airport Information**

| Airport:             | LONGMOUNT MUNIC. 2V2 | Runway Surface Type:             | Asphalt                   |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Airport Elevation:   | 5055 ft msl          | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Dry                       |
| Runway Used:         | 29                   | IFR Approach:                    | None                      |
| Runway Length/Width: | 4200 ft / 60 ft      | VFR Approach/Landing:            | Full stop;Traffic pattern |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

| Crew Injuries:         | 1 None | Aircraft Damage:        | Substantial                |
|------------------------|--------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Passenger<br>Injuries: |        | Aircraft Fire:          | None                       |
| Ground Injuries:       | N/A    | Aircraft Explosion:     | None                       |
| Total Injuries:        | 1 None | Latitude,<br>Longitude: | 40.170799,-105.109626(est) |

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#### **Administrative Information**

| Investigator In Charge (IIC):     | Tranter, Verlin                              |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Additional Participating Persons: | ALLEN B ROBBINS; AURORA , CO                 |  |
| Original Publish Date:            | October 6, 1988                              |  |
| Last Revision Date:               |  |  |
| Investigation Class:              | <u>Class</u>                                 |  |
| Note:                             |  |  |
| Investigation Docket:             | https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=17301 |  |

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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