



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	WINTER HAVEN, Florida	Accident Number:	ERA23LA311
Date & Time:	July 22, 2023, 07:37 Local	Registration:	N7528W
Aircraft:	Piper PA-28-180	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The student pilot was on a solo cross-country flight. The pilot arrived at the destination airport, and after an uneventful landing, he planned to practice takeoffs and landings in the airport traffic pattern. While on short final approach during the next landing attempt, the pilot contemplated going around as the airplane was not aligned with the runway. He instead continued to approach and attempted to correct the misalignment. While crossing the runway threshold, the airplane was “a little high” and still not aligned along the runway centerline. The pilot reduced the engine power and continued his attempt to align the airplane with the runway using the rudder. The pilot then decided to go around just as the landing gear contacted the runway, adding engine power and pulling back the control yoke. The airplane then veered to the left and departed the runway surface as the pilot reduced the engine power back to idle to stop the go-around attempt. It subsequently collided with a taxiway sign and was substantially damaged. The pilot reported that there were not preimpact mechanical malfunctions or the failures 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 directional control during the landing, which resulted in a runway excursion and collision with a taxiway sign.

Findings

Personnel issues

Aircraft control - Pilot

Aircraft

Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	34, 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 None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 31, 2023
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	29 hours (Total, all aircraft), 29 hours (Total, this make and model), 3 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N7528W
Model/Series:	PA-28-180	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1963	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	28-1449
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 27, 2023 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6092 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A3A
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:	KGIF, 146 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	213°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	7 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	210°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.97 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / 25°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	WINTER HAVEN, FL	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	WINTER HAVEN, FL	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	WINTER HAVEN RGNL GIF	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	145 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	05	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5005 ft / 99 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Go around

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	28.06292,-81.753314

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Alleyne, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Matt Boucher; FAA/FSDO; Orlando, FL
Original Publish Date:	January 25, 2024
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=192708

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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](#).