

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: JACKSON, Wyoming Accident Number: FTW98LA200

Date & Time: May 1, 1998, 10:30 Local Registration: N8536P

Aircraft: Piper PA-24-400 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: 2 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Instructional

Analysis

The pilot said he was 'breaking in a new engine' and he did not reduce power fast enough. The airplane landed long on runway 18, which was 6,299 x 150 feet, asphalt, porous friction course overlay. He said he realized he was not going to be able to stop the airplane on the runway that remained, and also realized he did not have sufficient speed to abort the landing. Heavy braking caused the left tire to blow out, and the airplane departed the end of the runway. The left main landing gear collapsed when the airplane traversed a large dip at the end of the runway, and the airplane slid to a halt approximately 100 feet beyond. Airport officials reported finding 1,400 feet of skid marks. A light and variable wind was reported at the time of the accident. The pilot attributed the accident to his error in judgment. His recommendation: 'Always land near the threshold, leaving as much runway as possible. Pretty basic.'

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's misjudgment of distance and speed, while approaching to land; his failure to attain a proper touchdown point for landing; and his failure to go around, while there was sufficient runway remaining. A related factor was the uneven terrain, which was encountered beyond the end of the runway.

Findings

Occurrence #1: OVERRUN

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

- 1. (C) DISTANCE/SPEED MISJUDGED PILOT IN COMMAND
- 2. (C) PROPER TOUCHDOWN POINT NOT ATTAINED PILOT IN COMMAND
- 3. (C) GO-AROUND NOT PERFORMED PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

4. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - ROUGH/UNEVEN

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Factual Information

On May 1, 1998, approximately 1030 mountain daylight time, a Piper PA-24-400, N8536P, was substantially damaged when it collided with terrain while landing at Jackson, Wyoming. The private pilot and commercial-rated passenger were not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and a VFR flight plan had been filed for the personal flight being conducted under Title 14 CFR Part 91. The flight originated at Provo, Utah, approximately 0900.

The pilot had recently purchased the airplane from the passenger that was in the airplane. In his accident report, the pilot indicated he was "breaking in a new engine" and he did not reduce power fast enough. The airplane landed long on runway 18 (6,299 ft. x 150 ft., asphalt, porous friction course overlay). The pilot said he realized he was not going to be able to stop the airplane on the runway that remained, and also realized he did not have sufficient speed to abort the landing. Heavy braking caused the left tire to blow out, and the airplane departed the end of the runway. The left main landing gear collapsed when the airplane traversed a large dip at the end of the runway, and the airplane slid to a halt approximately 100 feet beyond. Airport officials reported finding 1,400 feet of skid marks.

The pilot attributed the accident to "poor judgment" and his error. His recommendation: "Always land near the threshold, leaving as much runway as possible. Pretty basic."

Later examination of the airplane by an FAA inspector revealed a wrinkled and dented left wing, a torn left flap, damaged elevator and both wing tips, two main tires blown out, and a collapsed landing gear.

A light and variable wind was reported at the time of the accident.

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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	39,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 Valid Medicalno waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 18, 1997
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	275 hours (Total, all aircraft), 35 hours (Total, this make and model), 200 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N8536P
Model/Series:	PA-24-400 PA-24-400	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	26-117
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 23, 1998 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	3600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	3 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2986 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-720-A1A
Registered Owner:	MARK SHERANIAN	Rated Power:	400 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

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Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	JAC ,6445 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	09:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	7°C / -5°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipita	ation	
Departure Point:	PROVO , UT (PVU)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	(JAC)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	09:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	JACKSON HOLE JAC	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	6445 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	18	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:	6299 ft / 150 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:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Scott, Arnold

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: February 15, 2001

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: Class

Note:

Investigation Docket: https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=20590

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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