



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	CRYSTAL CITY, Texas	<b>Accident Number:</b>	FTW84LA022
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	October 14, 1983, 15:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N2395L
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-38	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation		

## Analysis

WHILE LANDING ON A RANCH STRIP, THE ACFT ENCOUNTERED & SUDDEN GUST OF WIND & DRIFTED OFF THE PAVEMENT. THE WING & GEAR OF THE ACFT COLLIDED WITH TALL SUNFLOWER THAT WERE GROWING BESIDE THE STRIP. SUBSEQUENTLY, THE NOSE GEAR COLLAPSED & THE ACFT NOSED OVER. ACCORDING TO THE PLT, THE WIND WAS FROM 100 DEG AT 15 GUSTING 20 KTS.

## 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. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CROSSWIND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
3. (C) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE - PILOT IN COMMAND
6. GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: NOSE GEAR COLLAPSED  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

7. LANDING GEAR, NOSE GEAR - OVERLOAD

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Occurrence #3: NOSE OVER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	23, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>		<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	March 21, 1983
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	60 hours (Total, all aircraft), 60 hours (Total, this make and model), 38 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N2395L
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-38 PA-38	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	38-79A0692
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	February 17, 1983 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1670 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1150 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-235-L2C
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	SAGEBRUSH PUBLISHING CO.	<b>Rated Power:</b>	108 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	
<b>Operator Does Business As:</b>		<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>	

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 5000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	15 knots / 20 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	100°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	27°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	TEMPLE, TX	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>		<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	00:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	COMETA FARMS	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	600 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	15	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	3000 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Traffic pattern

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Daugherty, J

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:**

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class](#)

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=21182>

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