



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	PLACERVILLE, California	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX95LA349
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 28, 1995, 14:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N2481F
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-38-112	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

## Analysis

THE STUDENT PILOT WAS COMPLETING THE FIRST LEG OF A ROUND ROBIN SOLO CROSS-COUNTRY FLIGHT. WHEN THE AIRPLANE NEARED THE RUNWAY THRESHOLD, THE STUDENT PILOT REDUCED THE POWER TO IDLE AND THE AIRPLANE BEGAN TO SINK RAPIDLY. THE STUDENT APPLIED POWER WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY RAISING THE NOSE. THE AIRPLANE STALLED, LANDED HARD, AND BOUNCED OFF THE LEFT SIDE OF THE RUNWAY STRIKING A VASI FACILITY.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the student pilot's failure to obtain a proper descent rate and improper remedial by failing to initiate a go-around. The inadvertent stall and the gusty wind conditions were factors in this accident.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
2. (C) PROPER DESCENT RATE - NOT ATTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) REMEDIAL ACTION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) GO-AROUND - NOT PERFORMED - PILOT IN COMMAND

5. (F) STALL - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: HARD LANDING

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

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Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT

Phase of Operation: LANDING

Findings

6. OBJECT - VASI LIGHT/SYSTEM

## Factual Information

On September 28, 1995, at 1415 hours Pacific daylight time, a Piper PA38-112, N2481F, landed hard and collided with a visual approach slope indicator (VASI) facility on runway 23 at Placerville Airport, Placerville, California. The student pilot was conducting a round robin solo cross-country visual flight rules (VFR) instructional flight from Fresno Air Terminal, Fresno, California, and return with intended landings at Placerville Airport and Salinas Airport, Salinas, California. The student pilot filed and activated a VFR flight plan and was not injured. The airplane, registered to a private individual and operated by Mazzei Flying Service, Fresno, California, sustained substantial damage. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed. The flight departed Fresno Air Terminal at 1200 hours.

The student pilot submitted the required Pilot/Operator Aircraft Accident Report, NTSB Form 6120.1/2. He said in the report that when the airplane neared the threshold he reduced the engine power to idle while in a nose level attitude. The airplane then began to sink rapidly. He applied power to arrest the sink rate, but without success. At this time, the airplane's nose attitude was at a high angle of attack and the nose began to turn to the left. The airplane collided with the runway in a nose left attitude, bounced off the runway, and then struck the VASI facility.

The airport manager reported that the surface winds were variable from a calm condition to gusty conditions exceeding 15 knots.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Student	<b>Age:</b>	18, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	July 3, 1995
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	35 hours (Total, all aircraft), 35 hours (Total, this make and model), 4 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 35 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 22 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	PIPER	<b>Registration:</b>	N2481F
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PA-38-112 PA-38-112	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal; Utility	<b>Serial Number:</b>	38-79A0471
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	September 7, 1995 100 hour	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1670 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	61 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	9046 Hrs	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	LYCOMING
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-235-L2A
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	GEORGE & ANNE BRANNAN	<b>Rated Power:</b>	112 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	MAZZEI FLYING SERVICE	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<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>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/ 15 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	FRESNO , CA (FAT )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	VFR
<b>Destination:</b>	(PVF )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	12:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	PLACERVILLE PVF	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	2503 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	23	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	4200 ft / 75 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop;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>	38.73085,-120.799423(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Llorente, A.
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	RICHARD CONTE; SACRAMENTO , CA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	March 21, 1996
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=29227">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=29227</a>

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