



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

|                                |                                      |                         |             |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>Location:</b>               | THEDFORD, Nebraska                   | <b>Accident Number:</b> | MKC90LA096  |
| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b>        | April 24, 1990, 18:20 Local          | <b>Registration:</b>    | N78812      |
| <b>Aircraft:</b>               | PIPER PA-11                          | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b> | Substantial |
| <b>Defining Event:</b>         |                                      | <b>Injuries:</b>        | 2 None      |
| <b>Flight Conducted Under:</b> | Part 91: General aviation - Personal |                         |             |

## Analysis

WHILE ATTEMPTING TO LAND THE TAIL WHEEL CONFIGURED ACFT, DURING GUSTY, CROSS WIND CONDITIONS, THE NEWLY CERTIFICATED PVT PLT LOST DIRECTIONAL CONTROL. THE ACFT VEERED OFF THE RUNWAY RESULTING IN SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE PILOT IN COMMAND'S FAILURE TO COMPENSATE FOR WIND WHILE LANDING RESULTING IN LOSS OF DIRECTIONAL CONTROL AND COLLISION WITH TERRAIN.

## 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 - NOT ATTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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



## Factual Information

### Pilot Information

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                          |                   |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Certificate:</b>              | Private                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <b>Age:</b>                              | 46, Male          |
| <b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>       | Single-engine land                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>Seat Occupied:</b>                    | Unknown           |
| <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>     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Toxicology Performed:</b>             | No                |
| <b>Medical Certification:</b>    | Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>            | December 29, 1989 |
| <b>Occupational Pilot:</b>       | UNK                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b> |                   |
| <b>Flight Time:</b>              | 114 hours (Total, all aircraft), 66 hours (Total, this make and model), 75 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 81 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 36 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft) |                                          |                   |

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

|                                      |                      |                                       |                 |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Aircraft Make:</b>                | PIPER                | <b>Registration:</b>                  | N78812          |
| <b>Model/Series:</b>                 | PA-11 PA-11          | <b>Aircraft Category:</b>             | Airplane        |
| <b>Year of Manufacture:</b>          |                      | <b>Amateur Built:</b>                 |                 |
| <b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>    |                      | <b>Serial Number:</b>                 | 11-1585         |
| <b>Landing Gear Type:</b>            | Tailwheel            | <b>Seats:</b>                         | 2               |
| <b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b> | Unknown              | <b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>       | 1220 lbs        |
| <b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>   | 0 Hrs                | <b>Engines:</b>                       | 1 Reciprocating |
| <b>Airframe Total Time:</b>          |                      | <b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>           | CONTINENTAL     |
| <b>ELT:</b>                          | Installed, activated | <b>Engine Model/Series:</b>           | O-200-A         |
| <b>Registered Owner:</b>             | MOST, GORDON G.      | <b>Rated Power:</b>                   | 100 Horsepower  |
| <b>Operator:</b>                     |                      | <b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b> | None            |
| <b>Operator Does Business As:</b>    |                      | <b>Operator Designator Code:</b>      | 06              |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

|                                         |                                  |                                             |                   |
|-----------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>     | Visual (VMC)                     | <b>Condition of Light:</b>                  | Day               |
| <b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b> | MHN ,3260 ft msl                 | <b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>         | 10 Nautical Miles |
| <b>Observation Time:</b>                | 16:50 Local                      | <b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>        | 260°              |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>          | Scattered / 1000 ft AGL          | <b>Visibility</b>                           | 15 miles          |
| <b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>                  | None                             | <b>Visibility (RVR):</b>                    |                   |
| <b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>                | 20 knots / 30 knots              | <b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>     | /                 |
| <b>Wind Direction:</b>                  | 150°                             | <b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b> | /                 |
| <b>Altimeter Setting:</b>               | 29 inches Hg                     | <b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>               | 24°C / 8°C        |
| <b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>   | No Obscuration; No Precipitation |                                             |                   |
| <b>Departure Point:</b>                 | ALLIANCE , NE (AIA )             | <b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>           | None              |
| <b>Destination:</b>                     | (5V3 )                           | <b>Type of Clearance:</b>                   | None              |
| <b>Departure Time:</b>                  | 16:00 Local                      | <b>Type of Airspace:</b>                    |                   |

## Airport Information

|                             |                 |                                  |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>Airport:</b>             | THOMAS CO. 5V3  | <b>Runway Surface Type:</b>      | Asphalt   |
| <b>Airport Elevation:</b>   | 2820 ft msl     | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Dry       |
| <b>Runway Used:</b>         | 26              | <b>IFR Approach:</b>             | None      |
| <b>Runway Length/Width:</b> | 2800 ft / 50 ft | <b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>     | Full stop |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

|                            |        |                             |                           |
|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Crew Injuries:</b>      | 1 None | <b>Aircraft Damage:</b>     | Substantial               |
| <b>Passenger Injuries:</b> | 1 None | <b>Aircraft Fire:</b>       | None                      |
| <b>Ground Injuries:</b>    | N/A    | <b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>  | None                      |
| <b>Total Injuries:</b>     | 2 None | <b>Latitude, Longitude:</b> | 41.970966,-100.56977(est) |

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Hruban, John

**Additional Participating Persons:** JIM SAZAMA;

**Original Publish Date:** November 9, 1992

**Last Revision Date:**

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

**Note:**

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=34970>

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.

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