



# **Aviation Investigation Final Report**

Location: JANESVILLE, Wisconsin Accident Number: CHI98LA350

Date & Time: September 17, 1998, 11:50 Local Registration: N4749Z

Aircraft: Piper PA-22-108 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

**Defining Event:** 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

### **Analysis**

The pilot reported the airplane started to sink while he was on short final. He applied power, but the airplane continued to descend until contacting the terrain short of the approach end of the runway.

### **Probable Cause and Findings**

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's failure to land the airplane at a proper touchdown point on the runway. A factor was the excessive rate of descent which developed on final approach.

### **Findings**

Occurrence #1: UNDERSHOOT

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

#### **Findings**

1. (F) PROPER DESCENT RATE - EXCEEDED

2. REMEDIAL ACTION - ATTEMPTED - PILOT IN COMMAND

3. (C) PROPER TOUCHDOWN POINT - NOT ATTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - FLARE/TOUCHDOWN

Findings 4. TERRAIN CONDITION - DITCH

Page 2 of 6 CHI98LA350

#### **Factual Information**

On September 17, 1998, at 1150 central daylight time, a Piper PA- 22-108, N4749Z, operated by a private pilot touched down short of runway 13 at the Rock County Airport, Janesville, Wisconsin. The pilot was not injured. The airplane was substantially damaged. The 14 CFR Part 91 personal flight was operating in visual meteorological conditions without a flight plan. The flight originated from Schaumburg, Illinois, at 1100 cdt.

The pilot reported that he was cleared to enter a right traffic pattern for runway 13 when he was about 15 miles away from the airport. He reported that on short final, at an altitude of about 60 feet above the ground, with the engine set at 1500 rpm, the airplane started to sink. The pilot reported he applied power, but the airplane continued to sink. The airplane contacted the terrain short of the approach end of the runway. The nose wheel contacted the top of a 25-foot ditch which resulted in the nose gear collapsing.

Local winds at the time of the accident were reported as being from 110 degrees at 6 knots.

#### **Pilot Information**

| Certificate:              | Private   | Age:                              | 70,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 3 Valid Medicalw/<br>waivers/lim  | Last FAA Medical Exam:            | February 14, 1998 |
| Occupational Pilot:       | UNK   | Last Flight Review or Equivalent: |                   |
| Flight Time:              | 2483 hours (Total, all aircraft), 900 hours (Total, this make and model), 21 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft) |                                   |                   |

Page 3 of 6 CHI98LA350

# **Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information**

| Aircraft Make:                | Piper  | Registration:                     | N4749Z          |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| Model/Series:                 | PA-22-108 PA-22-108                                    | Aircraft Category:                | Airplane        |
| Year of Manufacture:          |  | Amateur Built:                    |                 |
| Airworthiness Certificate:    | Normal   | Serial Number:                    | 22-8305         |
| Landing Gear Type:            | Tricycle   | Seats:                            | 2               |
| Date/Type of Last Inspection: | October 1, 1997 Annual                                 | Certified Max Gross Wt.:          | 2600 lbs        |
| Time Since Last Inspection:   | 40 Hrs   | Engines:                          | 1 Reciprocating |
| Airframe Total Time:          | 2840 Hrs   | Engine Manufacturer:              | Lycoming        |
| ELT:                          | Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident | Engine Model/Series:              | 0-235-C         |
| Registered Owner:             | PHILIP A. CAPONE                                       | Rated Power:                      | 108 Horsepower  |
| Operator:                     |  | Operating Certificate(s)<br>Held: | None            |
| Operator Does Business As:    |  | Operator Designator Code:         |                 |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

| Conditions at Accident Site:     | Visual (VMC)                 | Condition of Light:                  | Day      |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | JVL ,808 ft msl              | Distance from Accident Site:         |          |
| Observation Time:                | 11:50 Local                  | Direction from Accident Site:        |          |
| <b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>   | Scattered / 4000 ft AGL      | Visibility                           | 10 miles |
| Lowest Ceiling:                  | None                         | Visibility (RVR):                    |          |
| Wind Speed/Gusts:                | 6 knots /                    | Turbulence Type<br>Forecast/Actual:  | /        |
| Wind Direction:                  | 110°                         | Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual: | /        |
| Altimeter Setting:               | 30 inches Hg                 | Temperature/Dew Point:               |          |
| Precipitation and Obscuration:   | No Obscuration; No Precipita | ation                                |          |
| Departure Point:                 | SCHAUMBURG , IL (06C)        | Type of Flight Plan Filed:           | None     |
| Destination:                     | (JVL)                        | Type of Clearance:                   | VFR      |
| Departure Time:                  | 11:00 Local                  | Type of Airspace:                    | Class D  |
|                                  |                              |                                      |          |

Page 4 of 6 CHI98LA350

# **Airport Information**

| Airport:             | ROCK COUNTY JVL  | Runway Surface Type:             | Concrete                  |
|----------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Airport Elevation:   | 808 ft msl       | <b>Runway Surface Condition:</b> | Dry                       |
| Runway Used:         | 13               | IFR Approach:                    | None                      |
| Runway Length/Width: | 5396 ft / 150 ft | VFR Approach/Landing:            | Full stop;Traffic pattern |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Page 5 of 6 CHI98LA350

#### **Administrative Information**

| Investigator In Charge (IIC):     | Sullivan, Pamela                             |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Additional Participating Persons: | TIMOTHY ANDERSON; MILWAUKEE , WI             |  |
| Original Publish Date:            | May 19, 1999                                 |  |
| Last Revision Date:               |  |  |
| Investigation Class:              | <u>Class</u>                                 |  |
| Note:                             |  |  |
| Investigation Docket:             | https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=43936 |  |

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.

Page 6 of 6 CHI98LA350