



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Elkhart, Indiana	Accident Number:	CHI04CA228
Date & Time:	August 15, 2004, 15:23 Local	Registration:	N4303A
Aircraft:	Piper PA-22-150	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The tailwheel airplane sustained substantial damage when the airplane ground looped during a landing on runway. The pilot's accident report stated, "Landed and during rollout [pilot in command] seat fell backwards. Pilot was unable to control rollout and airplane ground looped."

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The failure of the seat during landing roll and the subsequent pilot's airplane handling not being possible.

Findings

Occurrence #1: AIRFRAME/COMPONENT/SYSTEM FAILURE/MALFUNCTION
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

1. (C) FUSELAGE, SEAT - FAILURE
2. (C) AIRCRAFT HANDLING - NOT POSSIBLE - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - RUNWAY

4. (C) GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Factual Information

On August 15, 2004, about 1523 central daylight time, a Piper PA-22-150, N4303A, piloted by a private pilot, sustained substantial damage when the airplane ground looped during a landing on runway 27 at Elkhart Municipal Airport (EKM), near Elkhart, Indiana. The personal flight was operating under 14 CFR Part 91. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. No flight plan was on file. The pilot and passenger reported no injuries. The flight originated from a private airstrip near Elkhart, Indiana and was landing at EKM at the time of the accident.

The pilot's accident report stated:

Set up for a [right] downwind to [runway] 27 [at] Elkhart. Landed and during rollout [pilot in command] seat fell backwards. Pilot was unable to control rollout and airplane ground looped.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	52, 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:	Unknown Unknown	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	2000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 15 hours (Total, this make and model), 15 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N4303A
Model/Series:	PA-22-150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	22-3653
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:	Craig David Nelund	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	EKM,778 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:39 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 1000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 8500 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/ 0 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.28 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25°C / 12°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Elkhart, IN	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Elkhart, IN (EKM)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	15:10 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class D

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:	41.719444,-86.001663

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Malinowski, Edward
Additional Participating Persons:	Daniel T Sedberry; Federal Aviation Administration; South Bend, IN
Original Publish Date:	December 3, 2004
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=59979

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