



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Buena Vista, Colorado	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN04LA135
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 6, 2004, 15:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N727DG
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 180	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

According to the pilot, he was landing on runway 33 when the airplane encountered a "dust devil." Subsequently, the airplane ground looped, coming to rest on the right side of the runway causing substantial damage. A postaccident examination of the airplane systems, conducted by the FAA, revealed no anomalies. Winds in the area were reported as 320 at 11 knots with gusts to 14 knots.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain directional control. Contributing to the accident was the gusty winds and the dirt devil encountered by the aircraft.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - DUST DEVIL/WHIRLWIND

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Occurrence #2: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

3. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - ENCOUNTERED - PILOT IN COMMAND

## Factual Information

On September 6, 2004, at approximately 1530 mountain daylight time, a Cessna 180, N727DG, piloted by an airline transport pilot, was substantially damaged when it impacted terrain during the landing roll at Central Colorado Regional Airport, Buena Vista, Colorado. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The personal flight was being conducted under the provisions of Title 14 CFR Part 91 without a flight plan. The pilot and his two passengers reported no injuries. The cross-country flight had originated at Leadville, Colorado, at 1500.

According to the accident report submitted by the pilot, he was landing on runway 33 when the airplane encountered a "dust devil." Subsequently, the airplane ground looped, coming to rest on the right side of the runway. The left wing and the left horizontal stabilizer were bent. A postaccident examination of the airplane's systems, conducted by the FAA, revealed no anomalies.

Winds at Leadville, Colorado, 25 nautical miles northwest of Buena Vista, were reported as 320 at 11 knots with gusts to 14 knots.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Airline transport; Commercial; Flight engineer; Military	<b>Age:</b>	61, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land; Multi-engine sea	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	January 14, 2004
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	UNK	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	20000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1146 hours (Total, this make and model), 40 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N727DG
<b>Model/Series:</b>	180	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	31710
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	4
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	December 15, 2003 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	2550 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	60 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>		<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-470
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	230 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	LXV,9927 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	25 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	15:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	345°
<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>	11 knots / 14 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	320°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.43 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	17°C / -4°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Leadville, CO (LXV )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Buena Vista, CO (7V1 )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Buena Vista Municipal Airport 7V1	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	7946 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	33	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	8300 ft / 75 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>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	3 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	38.813331,-106.120002

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Bowling, David
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Jim Jellison; Denver Flight Standards District Office; Denver, CO
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	June 8, 2005
<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=60061">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=60061</a>

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