

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location: Folkston, Georgia **Accident Number:** ERA09CA102

Date & Time: December 18, 2008, 22:47 Local Registration: N699G

Aircraft: Piper PA-34-200 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Defining Event: Abnormal runway contact **Injuries:** 1 Minor, 2 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Instructional

Analysis

The flight instructor of the Piper PA-34-200 stated that following an uneventful cross-country flight, his student configured the airplane for landing. On the final approach to the 2,500-footlong by 50-foot-wide runway, the instructor advised the student that he was "low" and to "add some power." The student complied, and about the time the airplane reached the runway threshold, the student reduced the power as he flared the airplane. The airplane touched down "harder than normal and bounced." The flight instructor took control of the airplane and applied the brakes after it touched down a second time. The airplane bounced again, and when it touched down the third time, the flight instructor applied the brakes fully in an attempt to stop. The instructor considered aborting the landing, but did not believe that enough runway remained. The airplane departed the end of the runway, and went down an embankment into a ditch, resulting in substantial damage.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student's improper flare and the flight instructor's delayed remedial action.

Findings

Personnel issues	Incorrect action performance - Student/instructed pilot
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Personnel issues

Delayed action - Instructor/check pilot

Aircraft

Landing flare - Incorrect use/operation

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Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Abnormal runway contact (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion

Student pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	21,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 17, 2008
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 14, 2008
Flight Time:	202 hours (Total, all aircraft), 14 hours (Total, this make and model), 132 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 66 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Flight instructor Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor; Private	Age:	32,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	Yes
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 1 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 8, 2008
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	December 12, 2007
Flight Time:	1380 hours (Total, all aircraft), 75 hours (Total, this make and model), 1266 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 292 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 104 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

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Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N699G
Model/Series:	PA-34-200	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	34-7250338
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	6
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 6, 2008 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	2 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5538 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	10-360
Registered Owner:	SILVER EXPRESS CO	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	SILVER EXPRESS CO	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Night
Observation Facility, Elevation:	JAX,30 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	22:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	135°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.27 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	15°C / 14°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Keystone Height, FL (42J)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Folkston, GA (3J6)	Type of Clearance:	Traffic advisory
Departure Time:	22:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	

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Airport Information

Airport:	Davis Field 3J6	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	68 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Straight-in

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor, 1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor, 2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	30.796112,-82.028053

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Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Diaz, Dennis
Additional Participating Persons:	James Massey; FAA/FSDO; Atlanta, GA
Original Publish Date:	January 29, 2009
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=73120

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.

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