



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	White Sulphur Springs, Montana	Accident Number:	WPR10CA380
Date & Time:	August 2, 2010, 08:30 Local	Registration:	N3098M
Aircraft:	Piper PA-12	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that after a local area flight in a tailwheel-equipped airplane, the approach and landing was uneventful. As the airplane touched down, a herd of antelope entered the left side of the runway and crossed in front of the airplane. The pilot attempted to swerve to the right to avoid the animals and the airplane ground-looped, substantially damaging the airplane’s left wing. The pilot reported no mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airframe or engine prior to the accident.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot’s loss of directional control while attempting to avoid a herd of antelope crossing the runway during the landing rollout.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Animal(s)/bird(s) - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	72, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
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 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 21, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	July 12, 1998
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1084 hours (Total, all aircraft), 500 hours (Total, this make and model), 1060 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N3098M
Model/Series:	PA-12	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	12-1784
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 15, 2003 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1869 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	62 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1750 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320 SERIES
Registered Owner:	ROATCH EDWARD J	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:	ROATCH EDWARD J	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KHLN,3877 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	52 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	279°
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:	30.1 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	17°C / 8°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	White Sulphur Springs, MT (7S6)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	White Sulphur Springs, MT (7S6)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	07:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	White Sulphur Springs Airport 7S6	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	5061 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry;Vegetation
Runway Used:	31	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3200 ft / 90 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	46.502223,-110.907775(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Rich, Jefferey
Additional Participating Persons:	Ed Warmoth; Federal Aviation Administration; Helena, MT
Original Publish Date:	December 20, 2010
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=76821

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