



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Austin, Nevada	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR11CA098
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	January 12, 2011, 16:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N4030Z
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Piper PA-18-150	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Nose over/nose down	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot was on a local flight around his home airport when he decided to see how much snow was on the local mountains. He observed a ridge top airstrip where he had landed on several previous occasions, and saw that most of it was blown clear of snow. He overflew the airstrip, decided that it looked good, and made an uneventful landing. He walked around a bit, looked at snow depths, and then departed back to his home airport. During the takeoff roll, the airplane drifted too far to the right over what he thought was ground covered with light snow. It was actually a snow drift made from snow that had blown to the side of the ridge. The airplane started pulling to the right as a result of contact with the snow drift. The pilot still thought that the airplane would take off without difficulty, but the right main tire broke through the crust and dug in. The airplane nosed over onto the snow drift, resulting in substantial damage to the right wing and fuselage.

## 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 during the takeoff roll.

## Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Snow/slush/ice covered surface - Contributed to outcome

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground
Takeoff	Nose over/nose down (Defining event)

### Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	62, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Balloon	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	January 5, 2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 7, 2010
Flight Time:	6047 hours (Total, all aircraft), 855 hours (Total, this make and model), 6019 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 35 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N4030Z
Model/Series:	PA-18-150 150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Utility	Serial Number:	18-7988
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 6, 2010 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	15 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	1935 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-C4P
Registered Owner:	Joe Dory	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	Joe Dory	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	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>	KLOL, 3904 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	90 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	15:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	298°
<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>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>		<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.35 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	3°C / -1°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Austin, NV	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Austin, NV (9U3 )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:00 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	36.240024,-115.229278(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Plagens, Howard
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Lee Oscar; FAA FSDO; Reno, NV
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	May 26, 2011
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=78153">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=78153</a>

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