



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Sedona, Arizona	Accident Number:	WPR11CA237
Date & Time:	May 26, 2011, 14:00 Local	Registration:	N7792P
Aircraft:	Piper PA-24-250	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation		

Analysis

Prior to entering the traffic pattern with the intention to land on runway 21, the pilot contacted the pilot of another airplane that had just landed to inquire about the wind conditions. The pilot that previously landed reported the wind was “a little squirrely but not bad.” The pilot elected to continue his entry into the traffic pattern and made an uneventful landing. During the landing roll, the airplane veered to the left and exited the runway colliding with a tree and substantially damaging the left wing. At the time of the accident, the airport was reporting the wind as variable from 140 degrees to 200 degrees at 13 knots, gusting 32 knots. According to the pilot operating handbook, the maximum demonstrated crosswind component of the airplane was 17 knots. The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airframe or engine that would have precluded normal flight.

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 on the landing roll out. Contributing to the accident was the pilot's decision to attempt a landing in crosswind conditions that exceeded the maximum demonstrated capability of the airplane.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Variable wind - Contributed to outcome
Environmental issues	Gusts - Contributed to outcome
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Personnel issues	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
Aircraft	Maximum crosswind component - Capability exceeded

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion
Landing-landing roll	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	69, 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:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 26, 2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 18, 2010
Flight Time:	1954 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1388 hours (Total, this make and model), 1954 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N7792P
Model/Series:	PA-24-250	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	24-3009
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	March 15, 2011 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5500 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-540 SERIES
Registered Owner:	BERTOLINA ARTHUR T TRUSTEE	Rated Power:	250 Horsepower
Operator:	BERTOLINA ARTHUR T TRUSTEE	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSEZ,4830 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	13 knots / 32 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.95 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / -3°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Upland, CA (KCCB)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Sedona, AZ (KSEZ)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	12:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Sedona Airport KSEZ	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	4830 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	21	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5132 ft / 100 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:	34.842224,-111.786392(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Rich, Jefferey
Additional Participating Persons:	M. Eddie Ochoa; Federal Aviation Administration; Scottsdale, AZ
Original Publish Date:	August 22, 2011
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=79236

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