



# **Aviation Investigation Final Report**

Location: Havre, Montana Accident Number: WPR11CA281

Date & Time: June 23, 2011, 12:00 Local Registration: N57736

Aircraft: Piper PA-36-285 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

**Defining Event:** Loss of control on ground **Injuries:** 1 None

Flight Conducted Under: Part 137: Agricultural

#### **Analysis**

The pilot had just picked up a load for aerial spraying operations and was taking off on a road. He accelerated to approximately 72 mph with 15 degrees of flaps. The airplane lifted off the road momentarily before settling back down onto the ground. He then lost directional control of the airplane and exited to the left of the road, colliding with a fence. The airplane came to rest approximately 15 to 20 feet from the road. The pilot reported that he thought he may have hit the wake of a second airplane that was working in the area and had taken off before him three minutes prior to his takeoff attempt. According to a weather reporting facility located 10 miles to the south, the wind at the time of the accident was calm. The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airframe and engine that would have precluded normal operation.

#### **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 takeoff.

#### **Findings**

Aircraft Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Personnel issues Aircraft control - Pilot

# **Factual Information**

# **History of Flight**

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)	
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)	

### **Pilot Information**

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	67,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	October 16, 2010
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	January 15, 2011
Flight Time:	12000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 160 hours (Total, this make and model), 12000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 100 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

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#### **Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information**

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N57736
Model/Series:	PA-36-285	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	36-7660053
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	May 5, 2011 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	5700 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	10-720
Registered Owner:	BARLOW KIRK A	Rated Power:	400 Horsepower
Operator:	BARLOW KIRK A	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	

#### **Meteorological Information and Flight Plan**

meteorological informati			
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KHVR,2591 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	17:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	160°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.72 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	25°C / 13°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipit	ation	
Departure Point:	Havre, MT (NA )	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Havre, MT (NA )	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

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# **Airport Information**

Airport:	None - Road NA	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:		Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

# 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:	48.540554,-109.673057(est)

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#### **Administrative Information**

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Rich, Jefferey	
Additional Participating Persons:	Steve Jones; Federal Aviation Administration; Helena, OR	
Original Publish Date:	October 4, 2011	
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=80868	

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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