



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Valparaiso, Indiana	Accident Number:	GAA16CA491
Date & Time:	September 15, 2016, 15:30 Local	Registration:	N3331R
Aircraft:	Piper PA 28-180	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Hard landing	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that during the landing touchdown the airplane bounced on the main landing gear then nosed down and the propeller struck the ground.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the engine mount.

The pilot reported no preaccident mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane 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 improper landing flare, which resulted in a bounced landing.

Findings

Aircraft	Landing flare - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Hard landing (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	76, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 16, 2014
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

Pilot-rated passenger Information

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	68, Male
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	None Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 4, 1997
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	September 8, 2016
Flight Time:			

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N3331R
Model/Series:	PA 28-180 180	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1969	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	28-5661
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 15, 2015 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2400 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6000 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A2A
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Pilot school (141)

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KVPZ, 770 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	08:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	66°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility:	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	50°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.23 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 12°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Valparaiso, IN (VPZ)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Valparaiso, IN (VPZ)	Type of Clearance:	Unknown
Departure Time:	13:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	PORTER COUNTY RGNL VPZ	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	770 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7001 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;Traffic pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	41.45222,-87.008331(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Vanover, Jackie
Additional Participating Persons:	Victor Liberatore; FAA; Des Plaines, IL
Original Publish Date:	January 18, 2017
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=94028

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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](#).