



# **Aviation Investigation Final Report**

Location: Burlington, Washington Accident Number: GAA19CA080

Date & Time: November 29, 2018, 12:00 Local Registration: N3619M

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 touching down in crosswind conditions, the tailwheel-equipped airplane drifted left. He then applied opposite rudder and brake, but the airplane continued left, exited the runway, and struck a runway sign.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and empennage.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The airport's automated weather observation system reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was from 320° at 8 knots. The pilot landed the airplane on runway 29.

### **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 while landing in crosswind conditions.

### **Findings**

Aircraft Directional control - Not attained/maintained

Personnel issues Aircraft control - Pilot

Environmental issues Crosswind - Effect on operation

**Environmental issues** Sign/marker - Contributed to outcome

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## **Factual Information**

### History of Flight

Landing	Other weather encounter	
Landing	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)	
Landing	Attempted remediation/recovery	
Landing	Runway excursion	
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)	

#### **Pilot Information**

Certificate:	Commercial; Flight instructor	Age:	75,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	3-point
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:	March 21, 2018
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	May 16, 2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1975 hours (Total, all aircraft), 22 hours (Total, this make and model), 1750 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 22 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 0.5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0.5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

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

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N3619M
Model/Series:	PA 12 No Series	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1947	Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	12-2517
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	3
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 5, 2016 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	0-320-A2A
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

### Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KBVS,140 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	136°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Few / 1200 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 6000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	320°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.7 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	11°C / 7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Bellingham, WA (BLI)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Burlington, WA (BVS)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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### **Airport Information**

Airport:	SKAGIT RGNL BVS	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	145 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
Runway Used:	29	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5478 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop;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:	48.469444,-122.420555(est)

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#### **Administrative Information**

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Sean Roukema; FAA; Seattle, WA
Original Publish Date:	September 26, 2019
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=98702

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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