



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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<b>Location:</b>	DURANGO, CO	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN99LA045
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	03/01/1999, 1602 MST	<b>Registration:</b>	N9823X
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Cessna 185	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

The pilot said the wind was 'steady at 14 mph, gusting to 24 mph,' between 240 and 260 degrees, as he attempted to make a crosswind wheel landing on runway 20. When the airplane touched down, the left wheel 'skidded' when left brake was applied. The airplane ground looped and departed the right side of the runway, incurring substantial damage to the left wing. The airplane was FAA certificated under Type Certificate 3A24. No maximum or demonstrated crosswind component is listed in the Pilot's Operating Handbook.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain directional control and inadvertently allowing the airplane to ground loop. Factors were gusty crosswind conditions, pertinent crosswind information not made available by the manufacturer, and FAA's inadequate certification and approval of the airplane.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: IN FLIGHT ENCOUNTER WITH WEATHER  
Phase of Operation: APPROACH - VFR PATTERN - FINAL APPROACH

### Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CROSSWIND
2. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - GUSTS
3. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
4. (C) GROUND LOOP/SWERVE - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND
5. (F) INFORMATION UNAVAILABLE - MANUFACTURER
6. (F) INADEQUATE CERTIFICATION/APPROVAL,AIRCRAFT - FAA(ORGANIZATION)

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Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	67
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	974 hours (Total, all aircraft), 850 hours (Total, this make and model), 974 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 38 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Cessna	<b>Registration:</b>	N9823X
<b>Model/Series:</b>	185 185	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	JACK L. HEATH	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-470-F
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	DRO, 6685 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None / 0 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	13 knots / 20 knots, 280°
<b>Temperature:</b>	16°C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	(DRO)	<b>Destination:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	DURANGO-LA PLATA COUNTY (DRO)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Runway Used:</b>	20	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	9201 ft / 150 ft		

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>			

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): ARNOLD W SCOTT

Adopted Date: 04/25/2001

Investigation Docket: NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at [pubinq@ntsb.gov](mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov), or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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