



National Transportation Safety Board

Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Crookston, MN	Accident Number:	CEN09CA008
Date & Time:	10/01/2008, 1520 CDT	Registration:	N251ND
Aircraft:	PIPER PA-28-161	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The student pilot stated that he was established on final approach for runway 31 (4,300 feet by 75 feet, dry asphalt) and "everything was on track." When the airplane crossed the threshold, he reduced engine power and began the landing flare. After touchdown, the student pilot applied the brakes, which resulted in a skid and he was unable to maintain control. The airplane subsequently departed the runway pavement and came to rest in a ditch. The left main landing gear collapsed. The student pilot was performing his first landing on his initial solo flight at the time of the accident. He noted that the skies were clear and the winds were calm. The pilot reported that he had accumulated 13 hours total flight time, with 9 hours in the same make and model airplane. A post accident inspection did not reveal any anomalies associated with a pre impact failure or malfunction.

Flight Events

- Landing - Loss of control on ground
- Landing - Runway excursion
- Landing - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
- Landing - Landing gear collapse

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student pilot's failure to maintain directional control during landing. A contributing factor was the student pilot's limited flight experience. Additional factors were the presence of the ditch adjacent to the runway and the resulting collapse of the left main landing gear.

Findings

- Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Directional control-Not attained/maintained - C
- Aircraft-Aircraft systems-Landing gear system-Main gear strut/axle/truck-Capability exceeded - F
- Personnel issues-Experience/knowledge-Experience/qualifications-Total experience-Student pilot - F
- Environmental issues-Physical environment-Terrain-Sloped/uneven-Contributed to outcome - F

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	21
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	13 hours (Total, all aircraft), 9 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N251ND
Model/Series:	PA-28-161	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	UND AEROSPACE FOUNDATION	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	CKN, 899 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm
Temperature:	10°C / 6°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Crookston, MN (CKN)	Destination:	Crookston, MN (CKN)

Airport Information

Airport:	Crookston Muni (CKN)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	31	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	4300 ft / 75 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Timothy Sorensen	Adopted Date:	12/03/2008
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
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 , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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