



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Salton City, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR18LA122
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	04/18/2018, 0830 PDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N332RP
<b>Aircraft:</b>	WILHELM PUSLAR	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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On April 18, 2018, about 0830 Pacific daylight time, a Wilhelm Puslar III airplane, N332RP, experienced a total loss of engine power and the pilot subsequently initiated a forced landing to open desert near Salton City, California. The private pilot sustained minor injuries, and the airplane sustained damage to the underlying structure. The airplane was registered to and operated by the pilot as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations Part 91* personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed. The local flight departed from Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport (TRM), Palm Springs, California about 0800.

The pilot reported that he had been cruising about 6,700 feet for about 30 minutes. When he started to return to the airport the engine suddenly lost power. He tried several times to start the engine however, it would start, then stop again. He navigated to the nearest airport; however, unable to make the runway, he landed in an open desert area. During the landing roll, the airplane struck a berm, the landing gear collapsed and the airplane came to rest nose down.

The airplane has been moved to a secure location for further examination.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	WILHELM	<b>Registration:</b>	N332RP
<b>Model/Series:</b>	PUSLAR III	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Amateur Built:</b>	Yes		
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	TRM, -114 ft msl	Observation Time:	0852 PDT
Distance from Accident Site:	25 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	23° C / -6° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots / , 340°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.01 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Palm Springs, CA (TRM)	Destination:	Palm Springs, CA (TRM)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	33.244167, -115.924167 (est)

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Samantha A Link
Additional Participating Persons:	Victor Hutchings; Federal Aviation Administration; San Diego, CA
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.