



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Riverside, CA	Accident Number:	GAA19CA333
Date & Time:	06/09/2019, 1115 PDT	Registration:	N6865B
Aircraft:	Piper PA22	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, while landing on a grass runway, the airplane encountered a "strong crosswind that blew [the airplane] to the left side of the grass." Upon landing, he observed "small grass mounds" rising higher than the mowed grass. As he continued the landing roll, he realized that the grass mounds were runway lights. The airplane hit a runway light and then ground looped to the right.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage.

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

An automated weather observation station located 3 miles south of the accident site reported that, about 38 minutes after the accident, the wind was from 270° at 15 knots. The pilot was landing the airplane on runway 24.

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 the runway heading during landing with a crosswind, which resulted in impact with runway lighting and a subsequent ground loop during the landing roll.

Findings

Aircraft	Heading/course - Not attained/maintained (Cause) Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Runway/taxi/approach light - Effect on operation (Cause) Crosswind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Other weather encounter Loss of control in flight (Defining event) Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) Loss of control on ground Runway excursion
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	BasicMed With Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	09/12/2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	02/22/2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 262 hours (Total, all aircraft), 32 hours (Total, this make and model), 129 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N6865B
Model/Series:	PA22 150	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1956	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	22-4165
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	4
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	07/11/2018, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	3592.3 Hours as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	150 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KRAL, 804 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	3 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1853 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	213°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / Terrain-Induced
Wind Direction:	270°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / Moderate
Altimeter Setting:	29.95 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	35°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	San Diego/El Cajon, CA (SEE)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Riverside/Rubidoux, CA (RIR)	Type of Clearance:	VFR Flight Following
Departure Time:	1015 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Flabob (RIR)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	767 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry; Vegetation
Runway Used:	24	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	3190 ft / 50 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:	33.988889, -117.410000 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric M Gutierrez	Report Date:	11/06/2019
Additional Participating Persons:	Bruce A Thielbar; FAA; Riverside, CA		
Publish Date:	11/06/2019		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=99604		

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