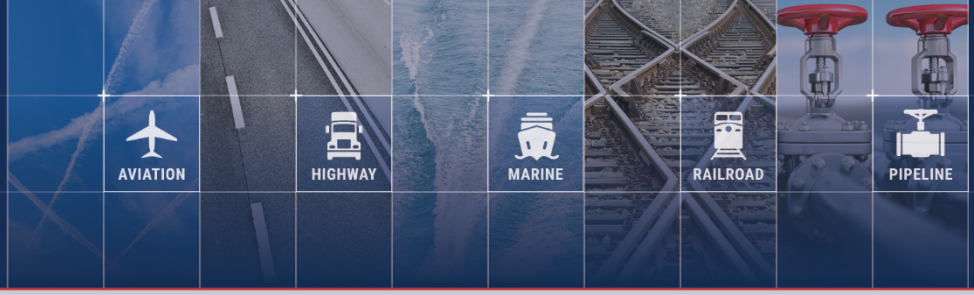

Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Brush, Colorado	**Accident Number:**	CEN23LA085
Date & Time:	January 17, 2023, 14:44 Local	**Registration:**	N41529
Aircraft:	Piper PA-18-150	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	**Injuries:**	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Public aircraft		

Analysis

The pilot of the tail wheel-equipped airplane reported that during the landing roll, when the airplane was slowed to taxi speed, it began to drift left. The pilot was unable to maintain directional control of the airplane and it exited the runway to the left. During the runway excursion, the airplane entered a snow-covered field adjacent to the runway, nosed over, and came to rest inverted. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wing struts and vertical stabilizer.

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

At the time of the accident, the pilot was landing on runway 25 with wind variable at 20-25 knots, gusting to 35 knots.

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 during the landing roll with strong gusty surface winds.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Other weather encounter
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Flight instructor; Remote	**Age:**	61,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land	**Seat Occupied:**	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	**Restraint Used:**	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter	**Second Pilot Present:**	
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Helicopter; Instrument airplane	**Toxicology Performed:**	
Medical Certification:	Class 2	**Last FAA Medical Exam:**	January 3, 2023
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	**Last Flight Review or Equivalent:**	August 26, 2022
Flight Time:	6500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 250 hours (Total, this make and model), 5000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 40 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	**Registration:**	N41529
Model/Series:	PA-18-150	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1989	**Amateur Built:**	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	**Serial Number:**	1809036
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	**Seats:**	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	November 4, 2022 Annual	**Certified Max Gross Wt.:**	2000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		**Engines:**	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	6825 Hrs as of last inspection	**Engine Manufacturer:**	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	**Engine Model/Series:**	O-360-C4P
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:	KFMM	**Distance from Accident Site:**	11 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	14:35 Local	**Direction from Accident Site:**	270°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		**Visibility**	7 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 700 ft AGL	**Visibility (RVR):**	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	11 knots /	**Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:**	None / None
Wind Direction:	70°	**Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:**	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	2970 inches Hg	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	-2°C / -2°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Akron, CO (KAKO)	**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	Company VFR
Destination:	La Junta, CO (KLHX)	**Type of Clearance:**	Unknown
Departure Time:	11:55 Local	**Type of Airspace:**	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Brush Municipal Airport 7V5	**Runway Surface Type:**	Asphalt;Ice;Snow
Airport Elevation:	4280 ft msl	**Runway Surface Condition:**	Ice;Slush covered;Snow;Wet
Runway Used:	07/25	**IFR Approach:**	None
Runway Length/Width:	4300 ft / 60 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:		**Aircraft Explosion:**	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	**Latitude, Longitude:**	40.264361,-103.57563(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Otterstrom, Kevin
Additional Participating Persons:	Shannon Hauck ; FAA ; Colorado Springs , CO
Original Publish Date:	March 2, 2023
Investigation Class:	Class 4
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=106590