



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

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| Location: | Greenville, NC | Accident Number: | ERA23LA218 |
| Date & Time: | May 5, 2023, 09:00 Local | Registration: | N180LR |
| Aircraft: | Piper PA-28-180 | Injuries: | 2 Serious |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

On May 5, 2023, at 0900 eastern daylight time, a Piper PA-28-180 airplane, N180LR, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Greenville, North Carolina. The private pilot and the passenger were seriously injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

The pilot reported that he conducted a thorough preflight examination of the airplane and found nothing abnormal. Both wing fuel tanks were full, and the engine started and ran normally during all run-up checks. He then departed the Piedmont Triad International Airport (GSO), Greensboro, North Carolina, for the Pitt-Greenville Airport (PGV), Greenville, North Carolina, about 0800.

The pilot said that when they were about 10 miles from PGV at an altitude of about 4,000 ft mean sea level (msl), he noticed a gradual loss in engine RPM. He tried to add power with the throttle, but there was no response. The pilot also applied carburetor heat, but there was no discernable difference in engine RPM. The engine continued to rapidly lose RPM before it finally stopped producing all power. The pilot trimmed the airplane for best glide speed and tried to reach the airport, however, he ended up landing about a 1/4-mile short of the runway in a swamp.

Once the airplane is recovered, a follow up examination of the airframe and engine will be conducted.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Aircraft Make: | Piper | Registration: | N180LR |
| Model/Series: | PA-28-180 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Amateur Built: | | | |
| Operator: | | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |
| Operator Designator Code: | | | |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Conditions at Accident Site: | VMC | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | KPGV,25 ft msl | Observation Time: | 09:05 Local |
| Distance from Accident Site: | 1 Nautical Miles | Temperature/Dew Point: | 15°C /11°C |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: | / , |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility: | 10 miles |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.22 inches Hg | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | None |
| Departure Point: | Greensboro, NC (GSO) | Destination: | Greenville, NC (PGV) |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 Serious | Aircraft Damage: | Unknown |
| Passenger Injuries: | 1 Serious | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 2 Serious | Latitude, Longitude: | 35.630829,-77.398041 |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Read, Leah |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Lynda Falcon; FAA/FSDO; Greensboro, NC |
| Note: | The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident. |