



John Brannen
Senior Air Safety Investigator
AS-CEN

Date: December 20, 2023

Subject: Accident involving N4501E on December 17, 2023

Contact: Wade Jensen (Solo student pilot of N4501E)

Spoke with Mr. Jensen regarding the accident that occurred on 12/17/2023, with N4501E, a Cessna 172. He confirmed that he was the pilot of the airplane when the accident occurred. He said he is a student pilot and was on a solo cross country with a planned stop at SEP. As he approached SEP, he listened to the AWOS, and the reported winds were 220 degrees at 9 knots yielding an 80-degree crosswind for runway 14. He said that this was within the limitations prescribed by his flight school, so he proceeded. While in the traffic pattern, he felt that there may have been some wind gusts he felt in the airplane but continued. The touchdown was normal, and all three wheels were on the pavement when a gust of wind caused the airplane to veer right. He said that he overcorrected to the left and then back to the right and the airplane went off the right side of the runway. The airplane struck a ditch and the nose landing gear collapsed. He said that he believes the AWOS report was just before a change in the weather.

When asked if there were any mechanical problems with the airplane that may have contributed to the accident, he said there were not.

NOTE: After the conversation I looked up the weather reports for KSEP and there was a change in wind about the time of the accident.

METAR KSEP 171655Z AUTO 24006KT 10SM CLR 18/01 A3013 RMK AO2 T01770006=
METAR KSEP 171715Z AUTO 25011G17KT 10SM CLR 18/00 A3012 RMK AO2 T01800003=