

N8130D ACCIDENT

On 2 July, 2016, at approximately 1900, a Piper PA-22 (N8130D) attempted to takeoff from a grass airstrip in Rockingham County VA. As the aircraft started down the runway at the top of the hill, the plane caught a gust of wind on the left side causing it to go airborne. The aircraft veered to the right of the runway catching the fence post. The pilot tried to get the plane back on the runway, but ran out of room, so he turned the plane left toward the open field. The plane stalled, hit the ground, and skidded into a tree. The pilot sustained severe injuries and the passenger sustained minor injuries. At that time the state police and FAA were notified.

While accomplishing an inspection of the accident site on 3 July, 2016, numerous photographs were taken. An initial inspection of the accident site showed the aircraft positioned in an open field against a tree to the left of the runway. It was observed that the nose of the aircraft was crushed, the propeller was sheared off and was positioned to the left rear of the aircraft, both wings were severely damaged, the right wing impacted a tree and ruptured the fuel tank, and the fuselage was severely damaged. Additionally, it was observed that there were numerous impact marks and debris scattered throughout the accident site. On 6 July, the passenger provided a statement to the FAA Investigator. The pilot was unable to make a statement due to the severity of the injuries sustained in the accident.