



RECORD OF EMAIL

Maja Smith
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Western Pacific Region

Date: January 7, 2015
Person Contacted: Justin Louw (Federal Aviation Administration)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR15CA066

Narrative:

During an email correspondence with Mr. Justin Louw, an aviation safety inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration, he reported the following:

“I met and spoke with Glenn Bashforth this morning. He is a pleasant man who was very forthcoming with answering my questions. He said he just submitted the report you sent him. From speaking with him I discovered the accident was caused by Mr. Bashforth repositioning the seat. The pilot’s seat can be positioned in one of three positions. To move it from one position to another it requires removing bolts and re-bolting it in the new position. Originally it was in the middle position and he moved it forward to accommodate his short legs. He never checked to see if the control yoke would be restricted by doing this, which it did. The new position of the seat prevented the control yoke from being able to move completely back. During the take-off attempt he pulled the yoke back and it struck the seat, his first reaction was to adjust the elevator trim which caused the aircraft to take-off. He realized the aircraft was not controllable so he attempted to abort the take-off and return to the runway. With 200 feet left on a 2000 ft runway he braked hard but ultimately had no option but to hold on and brace himself for the accident. The aircraft flipped over and he was able to evacuate the aircraft without any injury. When I looked at the aircraft it had been disassembled for sale as parts.

END.

Submitted by: Maja Smith