

Aircraft Accident Statement

Philip M. Jones

Student Pilot

This is my statement regarding the aircraft accident that occurred on May 9 at approximately 1:00 PM at Wilgrove Air Park, North Carolina.

My Instructor (CFI), Mr. Don Turrell and I departed Concord airport (KJFQ) in a PA28-180 Piper Cherokee (N7855W) at approximately 12:30 hours. We flew to Monroe Airport (KEQY), landed and then departed for Wilgrove Airport (8A6). Conditions were VFR, with surface winds at KJFQ reported as 220@8 knts and calm at KEQY. We entered the downwind on the east side of the Wilgrove Air Park, turned base and then final. Speed and altitude on final were in accordance with the Pilot's Operating Manual for the aircraft. The plane had full flaps extended. As we cleared the trees at the north end of the runway, a gust of wind pushed us to the east and off the runway centerline. As I adjusted back to the centerline, Mr. Turrell said he thought we were slow. I added power at that time. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Turrell said "go full power". We then attempted to climb out. The stall warning came on at this time. Mr. Turrell told me to "get the nose down". As I pushed the nose down, I felt a hard bump. It seemed to me that the nose gear or some part of the landing gear struck the ground. At that point, we lost control of the plane and skidded off the east side of the runway. The aircraft hit a fallen dead tree and spun, damaging the front landing gear and propeller. We immediately determined there were no personal injuries and shut-down all systems (fuel and electrical) and exited the aircraft.