

Inspectors Statement: Perry Ochsner
NTSB#: CEN19LA219
Accident Aircraft: N220FF
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On July 10, 2019 at 07:54 am CST I was notified by office manager, Mr. Nick Eull of the Fargo Flight Stands District Office (FSDO), of an aircraft accident that happened at the Mercer County Regional Airport in Hazen, ND (KHZE). The aircraft accident happened on July 06, 2019 @ 09:50 CST. I have been assigned to investigate this accident.

The accident aircraft was identified as a U.S. registered aircraft N220FF, SN: 020. The model of this aircraft is a Super Koala built from a kit by Fisher Flying Products. This aircraft is certificated in the Experimental / Amateur built category. Certification dated December 03, 2008.

On July 10, 2019 @ 09:40 CST, I met with the Mr. Garhett Langer, holder of certificate # [REDACTED]. Mr. Langer was acting as pilot in command (PIC) at the time of the accident and was the sole occupant on board. Mr. Langer holds a current second class medical and holds ratings as commercial pilot and flight instructor.


Mr. Langer stated he had been conducting flight tests for maintenance purposes and was currently on flight number 4. The aircraft had just been assembled and there was a known issue with the aileron rigging. After approximately the 4th adjustment to the aileron cable tensions, it "appeared the ailerons were rigged correctly". Mr. Langer decided to do another test flight. The aircraft went airborne and started to roll left. Mr. Langer stated that he applied full right aileron but the aircraft continued to roll left. The left wing impacted the ground 10 to 20 feet from the runway. The aircraft rotated 180 degrees as it impacted the ground and came to rest on its belly. The hard landing along with the impact to the wing caused substantial damage to the wing spar, belly, cowling, engine, landing gear and firewall. Mr. Langer was not injured and did not require medical attention. The uncommanded left roll was caused by improper rigging of the ailerons and improper cable tensions. Flight control continuity was checked with no discrepancies.

Inspection of the maintenance logbook revealed the aircraft was not properly signed off for return to service after maintenance.

On July 10, 2019 @ 11:30 CST I spoke with the owner of N220FF, Mr. Rocky Hagel. Mr. Hagel had purchased the aircraft from an estate. The aircraft was disassembled and transported via trailer to Hazen, ND. Mr. Hagel along with a part §65 certificated mechanic, assembled the aircraft. They had issues with the aileron cable tensions from the beginning. Mr. Hagel called Fisher Flying Products but was unable to get the information he needed. After several attempts to properly adjust the aileron cable tensions, it was determined that test flights would be needed. Mr. Hagel stated that the aircraft crashed on the 4th flight. Mr. Hagel stated the insurance company would consider it a total loss and that he (Mr. Hagel) had no interest in rebuilding N220FF.

This investigation will remain active due to discrepancies with airworthiness and return to service.

Perry W. Ochsner
Federal Aviation Administration
Flight Standards District Office, Fargo, ND

 Digitally signed by Perry W. Ochsner
Date: 2019.07.24 11:31:49 -05'00'

July 24, 2019