

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Student Pilot Statement

Peter Wentz
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: July 14, 2020

Person Contacted: Nomar Gonzales (Student Pilot)

NTSB Accident Number: ERA21CA244

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the individual named above:

Mr. Gonzales stated that he spoke with his certified flight instructor (CFI) on the phone, he was calling to cancel the lesson do to the forecasted weather, but the CFI assured him the weather would be alright if they got going early so he showed up at Tampa North airport (X-39) around 10:45. He asked the CFI about pre-flighting the airplane before departing, but the CFI stated "there is no pre-flight for this airplane, you just get in it and go". He stated he did complete a short pre-flight check like other single engine airplanes that he had flown in the past.

The CFI briefed him by saying "we are going to Plant City (PCM) and practice your cross country to Brooksville (BKV), then after we land at PCM I'll let you fly as if I wasn't there to see how you do and sign you off for your solo cross country". Mr. Gonzales stated there was no checklist on this airplane and no weight and balance was done before the flight departed.

He had checked the weather and let the CFI know there is bad weather coming in from the west heading south east. The CFI stated that would be fine, we will take off and finish before the weather gets worse. He started the airplane and headed down the end of the runway towards runway 14. He conducted a mag check for RPMs and from there the CFI instructed him to do a short field take off. There was a crowd of people at the cafe and the CFI stated "let's show them what aviation is all about"

He stated starting the take-off roll and everything seemed normal, airspeed alive at 60 knots, rotate at 65 knots, he stated pulling back on the stick to get the nose up and pitch for best climb, but the airplane struggled to fly. He then he felt pressure on the stick and stated the CFI was pulling the stick back more without addressing "my controls" next the airplane veers off the to the left and we are no longer centered with the runway. The CFI pitched the nose down of the airplane hit a small hill on the left side midfield

of the runway and he recalled a loud crash. He stated that the airplane cartwheeled about 2 times before coming to rest.

Both he and the CFI egressed the airplane, Mr. Gonzales also stated that the airplane had no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.