



Dan Baker
Senior Air Safety Investigator
AS-WPR

Date: January 17, 2024
Subject: WPR24LA077, Pilot Interview
Contact: Washington Santana, Pilot, N70WP

Mr. Santana was the pilot of a gyrocopter, N70WP, when it was involved in an accident on January 17th, 2024, at Yuma, Arizona.

Mr. Santana said that he was setting the engine power for takeoff but the brakes felt kind of mushy and were not holding properly, so when the main rotor RPM reached 150 RPM he released the brakes and increased power. The gyrocopter then rolled over onto its side. He said that he needed 180 RPM on the rotor before releasing the brakes and he should have aborted the takeoff, not increased power, and the accident was his own fault.