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The following is a synopsis of the information provided by FAA Inspector Mr. Eric Vietje in an e-mail correspondence.

Our office investigated N29447's occurrence of a runaway aircraft after a hand prop start at Deming Municipal Airport (KDMN). The owner/pilot asked a non-certificated person (not a pilot or mechanic) to sit in the aircraft during the start sequence. According to the pilot, the throttle was only partially open. Upon engine start, the aircraft went high RPM and began moving across the ramp. The mishap aircraft occupant did not know what to do as the aircraft was headed towards another parked aircraft. In an effort to avoid the parked aircraft (N17VT) he pushed on the right rudder pedal and managed to only nick the propeller and cowling of the parked aircraft. The mishap aircraft continued at a high rate of speed, coming to rest after contacting a light pole and corner of a hangar. There were no injuries; however, the aircraft was substantially damaged. The mishap aircraft occupant was interviewed, and he was able to explain proper throttle and brake operation. The mishap aircraft was examined, and the throttle and brakes were determined to be operating normally.