



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	GALLIANO, Louisiana	Accident Number:	FTW98LA261
Date & Time:	June 9, 1998, 19:00 Local	Registration:	N96VG
Aircraft:	Gisclair MURPHY RENEGADE SP	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

Following a loss of engine power during the initial takeoff climb, the experimental amateur-built airplane impacted the ground in an uncontrolled descent. After the airplane climbed to an altitude of approximately 500 feet agl, the engine rpm dropped from a normal cruise rpm of 5,200 rpm to 4,000 rpm and then to 3,000 rpm. The airplane, which was passing over a cow pasture with bails of hay spaced every 50 to 75 feet, began to lose altitude. The pilot attempted to maintain altitude in order to find a place to land; however, the airplane stalled and impacted the ground in a nose down attitude. Subsequently, a post-crash fire erupted and consumed the airplane. The reason for the loss of engine power could not be determined due to the extensive fire damage to the engine and airframe.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of engine power for undetermined reasons. Contributing to the accident was the lack of suitable terrain for the forced landing.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (F) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING

Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

Findings

2. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - NONE SUITABLE

Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Factual Information

On June 9, 1998, at 1900 central daylight time, a Gisclair Murphy Renegade SP amateur-built experimental airplane, N96VG, impacted the ground following a loss of engine power on the initial takeoff climb from the South Lafourche Airport near Galliano, Louisiana. The airplane, which was registered to and operated by the pilot, was destroyed by the impact and a post-crash fire. The private pilot, the sole occupant and builder of the airplane, sustained minor injuries. No flight plan was filed and visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the Title 14 CFR Part 91 local personal flight.

According to the pilot, the Rotax 912UL engine began to "run rough at about 500 feet altitude." The engine rpm dropped from a normal cruise rpm of 5,200 rpm to 4,000 rpm and then to 3,000 rpm. The airplane, which was passing "over a cow pasture with bails of hay every 50 to 75 feet," began to lose altitude. The pilot "tried to maintain altitude in order to find a place to land." The airplane "stalled and the left wing dropped and nosed into the ground." The pilot exited the airplane, and a post-crash fire erupted and consumed the airplane.

The pilot and the FAA inspector who examined the wreckage reported that the reason for the loss of engine power could not be determined due to the extensive fire damage to the engine and airframe.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	55, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Rear
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--w/ waivers/lim	Last FAA Medical Exam:	May 10, 1998
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	400 hours (Total, all aircraft), 130 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Gisclair	Registration:	N96VG
Model/Series:	MURPHY RENEGADE SP MURPHY REN	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	546
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	February 20, 1998 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1200 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	50 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	130 Hrs	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:	Installed	Engine Model/Series:	912UL
Registered Owner:	VICTOR P. GISCLAIR JR.	Rated Power:	80 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Does Business As:		Operator Designator Code:	

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	32°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	(L49)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:		Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	19:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	SOUTH LAFOURCHE L49	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	1 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	0	IFR Approach:	
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	29.430221,-90.300262(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Snyder, Georgia
Additional Participating Persons:	JAMES BRADEN; BATON ROUGE , LA
Original Publish Date:	February 15, 2001
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=20643

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