



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Mercer, Pennsylvania	Accident Number:	NYC05CA136
Date & Time:	August 23, 2005, 13:30 Local	Registration:	N184MH
Aircraft:	Hanek Pitts S1S	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane was departing from runway 27, a 2,000-foot-long, 250-foot-wide, turf runway. According to the pilot, a "u-shaped" cluster of trees surrounded the east end of the runway. As the airplane accelerated it began to bounce, and when the airplane passed the cluster of trees, it was exposed to a 10 knot crosswind from the north. The airplane veered off the left side of the runway, entered a corn field and nosed over. The pilot did not report any mechanical malfunctions with the airplane. Winds reported at an airport that was located about 17 miles northeast of the accident site, about 15 minutes prior to the accident, were from 360 degrees at 6 knots. Winds reported about 5 minutes after the accident, were calm.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain directional control during takeoff, which resulted in an on ground encounter with crops. A factor in this accident was the crosswind condition, as reported by the pilot.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - ON GROUND/WATER

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

Findings

1. (F) WEATHER CONDITION - CROSSWIND
2. (C) DIRECTIONAL CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: ON GROUND/WATER ENCOUNTER WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - ROLL/RUN

Findings

3. TERRAIN CONDITION - CROP

Factual Information

On August 23, 2005, about 1330 eastern daylight time, an amateur built Pitts S1S, N184MH, was substantially damaged during takeoff from the Nelson's Run Airport, Mercer, Pennsylvania. The certificated private pilot sustained minor injuries. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan had been filed for the personal flight that was conducted under 14 CFR Part 91.

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The pilot did not report any mechanical malfunctions with the airplane. He reported 1,500 hours of total flight experience, which included 115 hours in make and model.

At 1315, winds reported at an airport that was located about 17 miles northeast of the accident site, were from 360 degrees at 6 knots. At 1335, the winds were reported as calm.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	81, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Center
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 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	August 1, 2004
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	September 1, 2004
Flight Time:	1500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 115 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Hanek	Registration:	N184MH
Model/Series:	Pitts S1S	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	1
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	August 1, 2005 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:	24 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	25 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:		Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Registered Owner:	Walter L. Riley	Rated Power:	150 Horsepower
Operator:		Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	FKL,1540 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	17 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:35 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	45°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 5000 ft AGL	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	0 knots / 0 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	0°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.12 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	18°C / 10°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Franklin, PA (FKL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Mercer, PA (39PN)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Nelson's Run 39PN	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	1305 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:	2000 ft / 250 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Unknown

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	41.215831,-80.189445

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Schiada, Luke
Additional Participating Persons:	Henry Vejlsturp; FAA Allegheny FSDO; West Mifflin, PA
Original Publish Date:	December 20, 2005
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=62326

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