



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Buena Vista, Colorado	<b>Accident Number:</b>	DEN08LA061
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	February 23, 2008, 10:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N53041
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Hardy Midget Mustang M-1	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control on ground	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot said he started his takeoff roll on runway 33. When he reached 50 mph, he pushed the control forward stick to raise the tail. The airplane immediately swerved to the left and he corrected with right rudder. The airplane struck a snow bank along the right side of the runway and was substantially damaged. Recorded winds were from 270 degrees at 10 knots, gusting to 18 knots. The pilot had recently modified the airplane by repositioning the main landing gear.

## 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. Contributing to the accident was the gusty crosswind.

## Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Crosswind - Not specified
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Gusts - Not specified
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Modification/alteration - Pilot

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Takeoff</b>	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
<b>Takeoff</b>	Runway excursion
<b>Takeoff</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

On February 23, 2008, approximately 1030 mountain standard time, a Hardy Midget Mustang M-1, N53041, piloted by a private pilot, was substantially damaged when the pilot lost control and the airplane struck a snow bank on takeoff at Central Colorado Regional Airport (AEJ), Buena Vista, Colorado. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The personal flight was being conducted under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 91 without a flight plan. The pilot, the sole occupant on board, was not injured. The local flight was originating at the time of the accident.

In a telephone interview with the pilot shortly after the accident, he said he started his takeoff roll on runway 33. When he reached 50 mph, he pushed the control forward stick to raise the tail. The airplane swerved to the left and the pilot corrected with right rudder. The airplane struck a snow bank along the right side of the runway, bounced over it, and came to rest facing south. Winds recorded by the AEJ Automated Weather Observation Station (AWOS) were from 270 degrees at 10 knots, gusting to 18 knots. The pilot's accident report reflected this statement. He reported no flight control anomalies.

Post-accident examination revealed the fuselage was buckled and the left main landing gear was bent aft, buckling the left wing.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	56, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Single
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	June 1, 2007
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	700 hours (Total, all aircraft), 12 hours (Total, this make and model), 700 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 7 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Hardy	<b>Registration:</b>	N53041
<b>Model/Series:</b>	Midget Mustang M-1	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	Yes
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	499
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	1
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	July 1, 2007 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	896 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	12 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	12 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-200-A
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Larry A. Hardy	<b>Rated Power:</b>	100 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>		<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>		<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Observation Time:</b>		<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	3 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	10 knots / 18 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	270°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>		<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	28°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Buena Vista, CO (AEJ)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	(AEJ)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	10:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Central Colorado Regional AEJ	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	7946 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	33	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	Unknown
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	8300 ft / 75 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Unknown

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	38.814167,-106.120834

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Scott, Arnold
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Rob Soluren; FAA Flight Standards District Office; Denver, CO
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	May 28, 2008
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=67617">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=67617</a>

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