



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Monterey, California	Accident Number:	WPR09CA178
Date & Time:	April 4, 2009, 11:15 Local	Registration:	N224RA
Aircraft:	American Champion 7GCAA	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Aerodynamic stall/spin	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The wind was variable and shifting from onshore to offshore. After the run-up, the pilot taxied to the hold short line and noted that the wind continued to shift. Immediately after clearing the pilot for takeoff on runway 10R, the controller told the pilot that the winds had shifted and now were from 330 degrees at 6 knots. The pilot noted that she would be taking off with a left quartering tailwind. During the ground roll, she pushed the stick forward to bring the tail up, then she eased up on the forward pressure and the airplane became airborne momentarily. The pilot was attempting to get the airplane into ground effect for more airspeed, but the wind changed direction again and the airplane yawed to the left. She tried to correct, but stated that there was no lift and no altitude, and the airplane was in a nose-up attitude. The nose quickly dropped to the right, and the airplane came to a rest on its belly off to the right side of the runway. The tail wheel and left gear collapsed, the left wing tip was damaged, and the prop struck the ground. The pilot said that there were no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate compensation for the wind conditions and failure to attain/maintain an adequate airspeed, which resulted in an aerodynamic stall.

Findings

Aircraft	(general) - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	Sudden wind shift - Ability to respond/compensate
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Aerodynamic stall/spin (Defining event)
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57,Female
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
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 2, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	March 22, 2009
Flight Time:	308 hours (Total, all aircraft), 75 hours (Total, this make and model), 142 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	American Champion	Registration:	N224RA
Model/Series:	7GCAA	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Aerobatic	Serial Number:	4832004
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1750 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-B2B
Registered Owner:	David Casarez Excavating, Inc.	Rated Power:	160 Horsepower
Operator:	Monterey Bay Aviation	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KMRY, 257 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:	10:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	6 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / -1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Monterey, CA (MRY)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Monterey, CA (MRY)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	11:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Monterey MRY	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	257 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	10R	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	7616 ft / 150 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	36.585556,-121.83889(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Plagens, Howard
Additional Participating Persons:	John Howard; Federal Aviation Administration; San Jose, CA
Original Publish Date:	June 22, 2009
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.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=73596

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