



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Somerset, Pennsylvania	Accident Number:	ERA11CA279
Date & Time:	April 30, 2011, 13:45 Local	Registration:	N145HF
Aircraft:	FRANKE HARRY C AVID FLYER B	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (partial)	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot said that he conducted a preflight inspection and engine run up, and no anomalies were noted. At 65 feet above ground level on the initial climb, the engine experienced a loss of engine power. He lowered the nose and performed a forced landing, but the airplane touched down hard which resulted in substantial damage to the fuselage. The pilot stated that there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane. He said that the accident could have been prevented if he had tightened the throttle friction which accidentally rolled the power back to the idle position during the initial climb.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to hold full power for takeoff.

Findings

Personnel issues	(general) - Pilot
Aircraft	Power lever - Incorrect use/operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Loss of engine power (partial) (Defining event)
Emergency descent	Off-field or emergency landing
Landing-flare/touchdown	Abnormal runway contact

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	67, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport pilot	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	May 27, 2010
Flight Time:	145 hours (Total, all aircraft), 135 hours (Total, this make and model), 0 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	FRANKE HARRY C	Registration:	N145HF
Model/Series:	AVID FLYER B	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	296
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	July 19, 2010 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	764 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	250 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	582
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KJST,2284 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	19 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	13:54 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	45°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.15 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 0°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Somerset, PA (2G9)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Somerset, PA (2G9)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:45 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Somerset County Airport 2G9	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	2272 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	14	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2695 ft / 204 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:	40.038887,-79.014999(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Obregon, Jose

Additional Participating Persons: Jim Nettrour; FAA-FSDO; Pittsburgh, PA

Original Publish Date: August 30, 2011

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=79028>

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