



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Cambridge, Nebraska	Accident Number:	CEN11CA526
Date & Time:	July 23, 2011, 06:38 Local	Registration:	N3963E
Aircraft:	Piper PA-36-375	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (partial)	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 137: Agricultural		

Analysis

The pilot was departing on the first agricultural application flight of the day. He said that as he taxiing, he noticed the engine temperature rising, so he leaned the mixture. He completed his engine run-up and departed. He said that as the airplane was accelerating down the runway, he noticed the airplane was not developing enough power, but he had used up most of the runway and could not abort the takeoff. During climb, the airplane experienced a degrade in performance and struck terrain about 600 feet from the airport. The impact collapsed the landing gear and caused substantial damage to the airframe and elevator. The pilot reported that he inadvertently departed with the engine's mixture control lever at the halfway leaned setting. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical anomalies with the airplane, and the accident could have been prevented if he had used a checklist.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to reset the engine's mixture control lever to the full rich position prior to takeoff.

Findings

Personnel issues	Lack of action - Pilot
Aircraft	Mixture control - Not used/operated
Personnel issues	Use of checklist - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Prior to flight	Miscellaneous/other
Takeoff	Loss of engine power (partial) (Defining event)
Initial climb	Off-field or emergency landing
Initial climb	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Post-impact	Landing gear collapse

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Commercial	Age:	40, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Single
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 2 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	March 15, 2011
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	October 19, 2010
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 480 hours (Total, all aircraft), 198 hours (Total, this make and model), 438 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 99 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 63 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Piper	Registration:	N3963E
Model/Series:	PA-36-375	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Restricted (Special)	Serial Number:	36-7902029
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 15, 2010 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	4800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	5670 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	IO-720
Registered Owner:	MIKE E SIDES	Rated Power:	400 Horsepower
Operator:	JOSEPH M SIDES	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	
Operator Does Business As:	Behnke Aviation	Operator Designator Code:	J65G

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KMCK,2583 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	21 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	06:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	245°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	5 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	230°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.85 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	24°C / 17°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Cambridge, NE (CSB)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Cambridge, NE (CSB)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	06:38 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Cambridge Municipal Airport CSB	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	2414 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	32	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4098 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	40.308055,-100.166664(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Latson, Thomas
Additional Participating Persons:	Brent R Elliott; FAA Lincoln FSDO; Lincoln, NE
Original Publish Date:	October 20, 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=81280

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