



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Frostproof, Florida	Accident Number:	ERA11CA440
Date & Time:	August 5, 2011, 09:15 Local	Registration:	N13LN
Aircraft:	NELSEN LYNN H LIGHTNING	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the experimental, amateur-built airplane was departing from a turf runway. He reported that as he passed his normal rotation point on the runway, he rotated the airplane without verifying his airspeed, which resulted in the airplane becoming airborne prematurely. The airplane rotated, rolled to the left, impacted a light pole, and came to rest inverted. Substantial damage was sustained to both wings and the fuselage. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical failures or malfunctions of the airplane prior to the accident.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's premature rotation during takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft	Airspeed - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Incorrect action sequence - Pilot

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Miscellaneous/other
Takeoff	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
Takeoff	Runway excursion
Takeoff	Collision during takeoff/land

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport	Age:	71, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Helicopter	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	December 3, 2009
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	September 12, 2010
Flight Time:	11588 hours (Total, all aircraft), 300 hours (Total, this make and model), 9000 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	NELSEN LYNN H	Registration:	N13LN
Model/Series:	LIGHTNING	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	60
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	April 28, 2011 100 hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1320 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	311 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	JABIRU
ELT:	C91A installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	3300
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	120 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:	BOW,125 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	16 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	09:15 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	330°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 11000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	29°C / 24°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Frostproof, FL (52FL)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Frostproof, FL (52FL)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	09:15 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Lake Clinch Airstrip 52FL	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	125 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	36	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2800 ft / 80 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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:	27.750278,-81.555557(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Etcher, Shawn
Additional Participating Persons:	Robert Haynes; FAA/FSDO; Orlando, FL
Original Publish Date:	October 17, 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=81403

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