



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Dorris, California	Accident Number:	WPR11CA418
Date & Time:	August 30, 2011, 15:25 Local	Registration:	N2868A
Aircraft:	CHRISTEN INDUSTRIES INC A-1	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Dragged wing/rotor/float/other	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot stated that he flew to a nearby airport to practice touch-and-go takeoffs and landings. After his first touchdown, he applied power for takeoff and, as his airplane lifted off, he encountered a strong wind gust from his left side. He applied left aileron, but his right wing tip contacted the ground. The airplane cartwheeled and came to rest upright. The airplane immediately burst into flames and was consumed by the fire. The closest weather station, located 19 nautical miles from the airport, reported the wind at 280 degrees at 12 knots. The pilot reported that the wind was from the northwest at 15 knots, gusting to 20 knots.

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 lateral aircraft control while taking off with a gusting crosswind.

Findings

Aircraft	Lateral/bank control - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Gusts - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control in flight
Takeoff	Dragged wing/rotor/float/other (Defining event)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	60, Male
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:	May 31, 2011
Occupational Pilot:	UNK	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	835 hours (Total, all aircraft), 122 hours (Total, this make and model), 765 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 17 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	CHRISTEN INDUSTRIES INC	Registration:	N2868A
Model/Series:	A-1	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	1003
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 28, 2011 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	713 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O&VO-360 SER
Registered Owner:	ALEXANDER MARSHALL JAY	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
Operator:	ALEXANDER MARSHALL JAY	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	LMT,4137 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	20 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	35°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 4000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	15 knots / 20 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	280°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	29.86 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C / 3°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Dorris, CA (A32)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Dorris, CA (A32)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	15:25 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Butte Valley Airport A32	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	4249 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	34	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4300 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Touch and go

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	41.883888,-121.974723

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Struhsaker, James
Additional Participating Persons:	Ken Meyer; FAA; Sacramento, CA
Original Publish Date:	November 3, 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=81661

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The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).