



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Sebring, Florida	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA15CA020
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	October 18, 2014, 15:15 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N29ME
<b>Aircraft:</b>	AIRBORNE WINDSPORTS PTY LTD EDGE XT 912 L	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of control in flight	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

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## Analysis

According to the instructor pilot, he was beginning a local, instructional flight with a student in his weight-shift-control airplane. During the initial climb, the weight-shift capability of the wing became inadvertently restricted by the student, who was seated in the front seat. Due to the tandem seating arrangement, the instructor was unable to get the student's attention to release control. The student was "younger and stronger" than the instructor. The airplane rolled and impacted hard on the grassy area adjacent to the runway. A Federal Aviation Administration inspector reported that substantial damage resulted to the airframe's tubular structure and the wing. The instructor pilot reported that there were no mechanical problems with the airplane at the time of the accident.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student pilot's inadvertent interference with the weight-shift capability of the airplane during the initial climb, resulting in a loss of airplane control and hard landing.

## Findings

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<b>Aircraft</b>	(general) - Unintentional use/operation
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Use of equip/system - Student/instructed pilot
<b>Aircraft</b>	Lateral/bank control - Not attained/maintained

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Initial climb</b>	Loss of control in flight (Defining event)
<b>Uncontrolled descent</b>	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

### Flight instructor Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Flight instructor; Recreational; Sport Pilot	<b>Age:</b>	61
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Rear
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	3-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	Yes
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	Sport pilot	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Sport pilot None	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	July 24, 2014
<b>Flight Time:</b>	508 hours (Total, all aircraft), 144 hours (Total, this make and model), 455 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

### Student pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	48
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Front
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	3-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	Yes
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	April 5, 2013
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	60 hours (Total, all aircraft), 20 hours (Total, this make and model)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	AIRBORNE WINDSPORTS PTY LTD	<b>Registration:</b>	N29ME
<b>Model/Series:</b>	EDGE XT 912 L NO SERIES	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Weight-shift
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2009	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Special light-sport (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	XT-912-0334
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	January 27, 2014 Condition	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	992 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	5 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	55 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Rotax
<b>ELT:</b>	Not installed	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	912 Series
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	80 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	SEF,62 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	0 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	15:00 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	6 knots /	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	310°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/ N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.94 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	32°C / 13°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Sebring, FL (SEF)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Sebring, FL (SEF)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:15 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Sebring Regional SEF	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	62 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	01	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	5234 ft / 100 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	27.456388,-81.342498(est)

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Hicks, Ralph

**Additional Participating Persons:**

**Original Publish Date:** December 15, 2014

**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=90271>

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