



Injuries:

2 Minor, 1 None

# **Aviation Investigation Final Report**

Location: Quincy, Washington Accident Number: GAA15CA139

Date & Time: June 26, 2015, 07:00 Local Registration: N70WG

Collision during takeoff/land

Aircraft: RANDALL W GRANDPRE CH-701 Aircraft Damage: Substantial

Flight Conducted Under: Part 91: General aviation - Personal

#### **Analysis**

**Defining Event:** 

The pilot reported that during the takeoff roll on a gravel road, he failed to see a low hanging tree branch that the airplane collided with. The airplane veered off the road to the left and impacted an embankment that bordered the road. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the right side of the fuselage.

The pilot reported that there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

#### **Probable Cause and Findings**

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate selection of a take-off area, resulting in a collision with obstacles and a loss of directional control.

#### **Findings**

Personnel issues Decision making/judgment - Pilot

**Environmental issues** Debris/dirt/foreign object - Contributed to outcome

# **Factual Information**

# **History of Flight**

Takeoff	Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event)
Takeoff	Loss of control on ground
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

#### **Pilot Information**

Certificate:	Private; Sport Pilot	Age:	67
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport pilot None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	June 11, 2013
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	September 26, 2014
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 312 hours (Total, this make and model), 450 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 49 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 24 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### **Passenger Information**

Certificate:		Age:	
Airplane Rating(s):		Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):		Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):		Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):		Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:		Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:			

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# **Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information**

RANDALL W GRANDPRE	Registration:	N70WG
CH-701 ZENITH NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
2012	Amateur Built:	Yes
Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	7-4823
Tricycle	Seats:	2
February 18, 2015 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1150 lbs
73 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
315 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Viking
C91A installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	HF-110
GRANDPRE RANDALL W	Rated Power:	110 Horsepower
GRANDPRE RANDALL W	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
	CH-701 ZENITH NO SERIES 2012 Experimental (Special) Tricycle February 18, 2015 Condition 73 Hrs 315 Hrs at time of accident C91A installed, not activated GRANDPRE RANDALL W	CH-701 ZENITH NO SERIES  Aircraft Category:  2012  Amateur Built:  Experimental (Special)  Tricycle  Seats:  February 18, 2015 Condition  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  73 Hrs  Engines:  315 Hrs at time of accident  C91A installed, not activated  GRANDPRE RANDALL W  CHIFT Category:  Amateur Built:  Serial Number:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Category:  Amateur Built:  Seats:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Seats:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Seats:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Seats:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Seats:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Seats:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Seats:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Seats:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Seats:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Seats:  Certified Max Gross Wt.:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Amateur Built:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Aircraft Category:  Amateur Built:  Amateur Built:

# Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KEPH,1276 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	12:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	90°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots / None	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.03 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	20°C / 9°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Quincy, WA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	KELLOGG, ID (S83)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	06:00 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

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# **Airport Information**

Airport:	QUINCY MUNI 80T	Runway Surface Type:	Gravel
Airport Elevation:	1271 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	None

# Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor, 1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	47.178333,-119.875(est)

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#### **Administrative Information**

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Terrence Brewer; Federal Aviation Administration; Spokane, WA
Original Publish Date:	August 12, 2015
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	<u>Class</u>
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=91450

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

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.

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