



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Owyhee, Oregon	Accident Number:	GAA17CA424
Date & Time:	July 18, 2017, 13:30 Local	Registration:	N702KF
Aircraft:	SALERNO KENNETH G JR KITFOX SERIES 7	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the tailwheel-equipped airplane reported that, during the takeoff roll on a rough, dirt airstrip, the airplane encountered a "hump" and bounced prematurely. He added that, when the airplane touched back down, one of the tires hit a "rut," and the airplane veered left toward a tall sage brush. He further added that he "didn't correct direction properly" and attempted to rotate the airplane "early" to clear the sage brush, but the airplane's main landing gear impacted the sage brush, which resulted in a nose-over.

The fuselage and left wing sustained substantial damage.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident 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 failure to maintain directional control during takeoff from a rough, dirt airstrip.

Findings

Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained
Environmental issues	(general) - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	(general) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff	Runway excursion
Takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Takeoff	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	59, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Unknown
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:	February 6, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 8, 2016
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1315 hours (Total, all aircraft), 325 hours (Total, this make and model), 1245 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	SALERNO KENNETH G JR	Registration:	N702KF
Model/Series:	KITFOX SERIES 7 NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2002	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	S60102-049
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	October 15, 2016 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	ROTAX
ELT:	Installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	914
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	115 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Dawn
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KEUL,2432 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	34 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	19:56 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	90°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/ None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/ N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.94 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	31°C / 7°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Owyhee, OR (28U)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	CALDWELL, ID (EUL)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	13:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	OWYHEE RESERVOIR STATE 28U	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	2680 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry;Rough;Vegetation
Runway Used:	13	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1840 ft / 30 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:	43.42472,-117.345558(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gerhardt, Adam
Additional Participating Persons:	Leonard Burlile; FAA/ FSDO; Boise, ID
Original Publish Date:	November 14, 2017
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=95622

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