



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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<b>Location:</b>	BUCKEYE, AZ	<b>Accident Number:</b>	LAX94LA207
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	05/01/1994, 1915 MST	<b>Registration:</b>	NONE
<b>Aircraft:</b>	GRIFFIN TITAN TORNADO	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation -		

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## Analysis

Witnesses stated that the student pilot, who had no confirmed flight experience, assembled the aircraft on the day of the accident at the airport from a kit of preassembled major components. The pilot told the witnesses that he was going to perform some taxi tests and proceeded to do several taxi runs along the runway. The aircraft was then observed to line up on the runway, add what was described as full power, then takeoff. The witnesses said the aircraft leveled off about 30 feet above the runway and flew down the complete length of the pavement. Past the departure end of the runway, the aircraft abruptly pitched nose down and impacted the ground about 1,000 feet from the runway end. An FAA inspector reported that control system continuity was established throughout the aircraft during his examination. The witnesses reported that the engine sounds were consistent and strong up to the point of ground impact. A review of FAA system records revealed no evidence of a registration or airworthiness certificate application by the pilot.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the pilot's failure to maintain control of the aircraft. A factor in the accident was his complete lack of any flight experience or instruction.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

### Findings

1. (C) AIRCRAFT CONTROL - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) LACK OF TOTAL EXPERIENCE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

## Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	47
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None

Flight Time:

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	GRIFFIN	Registration:	NONE
Model/Series:	TITAN TORNADO TITAN TORN	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	JAMES R. GRIFFIN, JR.	Engine Manufacturer:	ROTAX
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	582
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation -		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Witness
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:		Visibility	30 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(B XK)	Destination:	

## Airport Information

Airport:	BUCKEYE MUNI (B XK)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	17	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	4300 ft / 75 ft		

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Latitude, Longitude:			

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): JEFF RICH, Adopted Date: 11/14/1994

Investigation Docket: NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at [pubinq@ntsb.gov](mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov), or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.