



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	BATTLE GROUND, WA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	SEA96LA001
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	10/01/1995, 1450 PDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N488WR
<b>Aircraft:</b>	RASMUSSEN KITFOX 2	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal, 1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

Witnesses observed that the aircraft began a 'steep climb' after a normal lift-off, then it began to drift to the right of the runway. According to one witness, the aircraft leveled off approximately 50 to 100 feet above adjacent tall trees, while going 'very slowly,' and then it began turning right and descending. The passenger stated that the aircraft's nose dropped after takeoff and again during the level-off. Subsequently, the airplane struck treetops and crashed. After impacting terrain, the aircraft burst into flames. The airport owner told a sheriff's deputy that the pilot usually flew alone; the passenger's weight of 195 pounds represented about 20 percent of the aircraft's 950-pound maximum gross weight. The kit manufacturer estimated that adding a 200-pound passenger would add 3 to 5 MPH to the aircraft's stall speed.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: failure of the pilot to maintain adequate airspeed during the initial climb after takeoff, which resulted in a stall/mush and subsequent collision with trees and the ground.

## Findings

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

### Findings

1. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) STALL/MUSH - INADVERTENT - PILOT IN COMMAND

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Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH OBJECT  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

### Findings

3. OBJECT - TREE(S)

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Occurrence #3: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER  
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	44
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	228 hours (Total, all aircraft), 202 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 12 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	RASMUSSEN	<b>Registration:</b>	N488WR
<b>Model/Series:</b>	KITFOX 2 KITFOX 2	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	JEFFREY W. PLUE	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Rotax
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	582LC
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	PDX, 27 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 15000 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	4 knots / , 20°
<b>Temperature:</b>	19° C	<b>Visibility</b>	40 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	(WA05)	<b>Destination:</b>	

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-Ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>			

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	GREGG NESEMEIER	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	05/29/1996
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	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 <a href="mailto:pubinq@ntsb.gov">pubinq@ntsb.gov</a> , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/</a> .		

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