



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	GREENFIELD, IA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CHI98LA186
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	06/02/1998, 1830 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N487JS
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Sheets KITFOX II	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor, 1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot stated that he was using 20-degrees of flaps for takeoff, which is not the normal takeoff configuration, because he was testing a new takeoff technique he had seen in an aviation publication. The pilot stated that the aircraft became airborne, sooner than expected, and drifted to the right of the runway centerline. While the aircraft was drifting across the runway it impacted the ground approximately 30' from the runway centerline. In a telephone conversation with the pilot, he stated that the accident could of been avoided if he had built up additional airspeed before liftoff and after liftoff kept the aircraft low in ground effect.

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the initial climb airspeed not obtained/maintained after liftoff by the pilot in command. A factor was the improper compensation for wind conditions by the pilot in command.

## Findings

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

### Findings

1. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT OBTAINED/MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) COMPENSATION FOR WIND CONDITIONS - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	58
<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>	221 hours (Total, all aircraft), 135 hours (Total, this make and model), 182 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 30 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Sheets	<b>Registration:</b>	N487JS
<b>Model/Series:</b>	KITFOX II KITFOX II	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	ROBERT D. FOSTER	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Rotax
<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	532UL
<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>	AIO, 1182 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None / 0 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	10 knots / , 330°
<b>Temperature:</b>	26 °C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	(GFZ)	<b>Destination:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	GREENFIELD MUNICIPAL (GFZ)	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Runway Used:</b>	32	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	2500 ft / 45 ft		

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	STEPHEN A WILSON	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	02/15/2001
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	NTSB accident and incident docket 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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