



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	TOMBALL, TX	Accident Number:	FTW99LA062
Date & Time:	10/01/1998, 1230 CDT	Registration:	N527SS
Aircraft:	Diamond Aircraft Industries DA 20-A1	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

During takeoff, at about 400 feet, the canopy separated from the airplane. The pilot turned the airplane back towards the airport and landed without further incident. The pilot reported that he did not explain to the passenger that the right side of the canopy needed to be latched before takeoff. The pilot also reported that he did not observe the canopy warning light during taxi to the runway, nor did he complete the 'Canopy-Secure' portion of the pre-takeoff checklist.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to follow the checklist and secure the canopy, which resulted in the canopy separating from the airplane during takeoff initial climb. A factor was the pilot's failure to detect the canopy warning light prior to takeoff.

Findings

Occurrence #1: MISCELLANEOUS/OTHER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) CHECKLIST - NOT FOLLOWED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (F) CAUTION/WARNING SYSTEM/LIGHT(S) - NOT IDENTIFIED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (C) WINDOW,CANOPY - NOT SECURED
4. (C) WINDOW,CANOPY - SEPARATION

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	28
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	14 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Diamond Aircraft Industries	Registration:	N527SS
Model/Series:	DA 20-A1 DA 20-A1	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	FLIGHT ACADEMY INTERNATIONAL	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	912/F3
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Temperature:	31 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(DWH)	Destination:	COLLEGE STATION, TX (CLL)

Airport Information

Airport:	DAVID WAYNE HOOKS AIRPORT (DWH)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	35L	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3997 ft / 35 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	DOUGLAS D WIGINGTON	Adopted Date:	04/20/2000
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 , or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/ .		

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