



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	MT. PLEASANT, MI	Accident Number:	CHI99LA141
Date & Time:	05/01/1999, 1415 EDT	Registration:	N4659T
Aircraft:	BARRETT BENSEN B-8	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot was attempting a go-around from a private airstrip. In a written statement, the pilot reported, 'I was coming in for a landing at my son-in-laws private airstrip. The strip has his house and a power line on the west end and woods on the east end. His strip is 1,200 feet long, plenty long for a gyro. I had made several landings there before. In the past my landings had been to the west. Due to the wind this one was from the east. As I approached I realized I was high and would use up a lot of runway, so I decided to go around. I then eased the throttle on to full and made a right bank . (there was a street, house, power line and a river to the left). At that moment the bird went into a downward roll to the left and nothing I did stopped it. I was on the ground before I knew it'. The pilot also stated that his airspeed was 40 mph and he did not recall making a right hand climb out before. The pilot reported that there was no mechanical malfunction. Examination of the wreckage revealed the gyroplane's rotor blades exhibited a cone shape.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: the inadequate rotor rpm by the pilot.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: GO-AROUND (VFR)

Findings

1. (C) ROTOR RPM - INADEQUATE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	78
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:	BARRETT BENSEN	Registration:	N4659T
Model/Series:	B-8 B-8	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	THURMAN BARRETT	Engine Manufacturer:	Volkswagen
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	1600
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:	MBS, 668 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , Variable
Temperature:	21 °C	Visibility:	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	SHEPARD, MI	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:		Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	9	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Length/Width:	1200 ft / 30 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	MITCHELL F GALLO	Adopted Date:	11/30/2000
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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