



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	MONTEVALLO, AL	Accident Number:	ATL90LA125
Date & Time:	06/02/1990, 1430 CDT	Registration:	N34431
Aircraft:	Schweizer SGS 1-26E	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PRIVATE GLIDER PILOT WAS ATTEMPTING AN AEROTOW TAKEOFF UTILIZING A CESSNA 150 AS A TOW PLANE. DURING THE TAKEOFF, THE TOW PLANE ABORTED THE TAKEOFF. WHEN THE GLIDER PILOT REALIZED THAT THE TOW PLANE HAD ABORTED THE TAKEOFF, HE WAS ALREADY AIRBORNE AND DID NOT HAVE SUFFICIENT RUNWAY LEFT TO LAND. WHILE MANEUVERING THE AIRCRAFT FOR AN EMERGENCY LANDING, THE AIRCRAFT STALLED AND COLLIDED WITH THE TERRAIN. SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION REVEALED NO MECHANIC MALFUNCTIONS WITH EITHER THE GLIDER OR THE TOW PLANE.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: THE INATTENTIVENESS OF THE GLIDER PILOT TO THE ABORTED TAKEOFF OF THE TOW PLANE, WHICH RESULTED IN HIS DELAYED ACTION IN ATTEMPTING TO EXECUTE A FORCED LANDING. THESE ACTIONS RESULTED IN AN INADVERTENT STALL AND THE AIRCRAFT COLLIDED WITH THE TERRAIN.

Findings

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

Findings

1. (C) REMEDIAL ACTION - DELAYED - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) INATTENTIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND

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

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	73
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Instructor Rating(s):	
Flight Time:	300 hours (Total, all aircraft), 120 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Schweizer	Registration:	N34431
Model/Series:	SGS 1-26E SGS 1-26E	Engines:	0 Unknown
Operator:	BIRMINGHAM SOARING SOCIETY	Engine Manufacturer:	
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	
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:	BHM, 644 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 4200 ft agl	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	15 knots / , 180°
Temperature:	-18°C	Visibility	12 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	(NONE)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	FLYING X (NONE)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	0	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2400 ft / 80 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	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): SCOTT STRICKLAND Adopted Date: 10/02/1992

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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