



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	FRIENDSWOOD, TX	Accident Number:	FTW88DRA10
Date & Time:	05/01/1988, 1415 CDT	Registration:	N331LB
Aircraft:	NEW RUTAN LONG-EZE	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

THE PILOT OVERROTATED THE AIRCRAFT ON TAKEOFF TO A NOSE HIGH ATTITUDE, THEN OVERCONTROLLED IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION TO GET THE NOSE DOWN. THE AIRCRAFT TOUCHED DOWN NOSE GEAR FIRST AND ALL THREE LANDING GEARS COLLAPSED, A WING SHEARED OFF, AND THE AIRCRAFT ROLLED OVER INVERTED.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

Findings

Occurrence #1: ABRUPT MANEUVER

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

Findings

1. (F) ROTATION - EXCESSIVE - PILOT IN COMMAND
2. (C) REMEDIAL ACTION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #2: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

Occurrence #3: COMPLETE GEAR COLLAPSED

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

Findings

3. LANDING GEAR,MAIN GEAR - OVERLOAD
4. LANDING GEAR,NOSE GEAR - OVERLOAD

Occurrence #4: NOSE OVER

Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport	Age:	67
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	27170 hours (Total, all aircraft), 28 hours (Total, this make and model), 27170 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 28 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 28 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	NEW	Registration:	N331LB
Model/Series:	RUTAN LONG-EZE RUTAN LONG	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	NEW LEO	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-2A
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:	8 knots / , 120°
Temperature:	27° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	FRIENDSWOOD, TX (T02)	Destination:	

Airport Information

Airport:	FRIENDSWOOD (T02)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	14	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	4322 ft / 70 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): N. R DASILVA Adopted Date: 02/28/1989

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/>.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report.