



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Punta Gorda, FL	Accident Number:	ERA09LA079
Date & Time:	12/05/2008, 1635 EST	Registration:	N370CT
Aircraft:	Flight Design CTSW	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot was practicing takeoffs when he made his third departure. The pilot stated that as the airplane was approaching take off speed, a gust of wind caused the airplane to veer to the right. He stated that he utilized the flight controls to stay pointing straight and on the centerline of the runway. The wind gust subsided and the airplane started "fishtailing" on the runway. The pilot then reduced power and applied brakes, while attempting not to "oversteer" the airplane. The airplane was almost stopped when the nose gear of the airplane departed the left edge of the runway, sank into the sand, and the airplane nosed over. Examination of the airplane revealed no preimpact deficiencies.

Flight Events

Takeoff - Other weather encounter
Takeoff - Loss of control on ground
Takeoff-rejected takeoff - Runway excursion

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's failure to maintain control of the airplane during a rejected takeoff. Contributing to the accident was a gust of wind.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft power plant-Power plant-Fireseals-Damaged/degraded
Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-(general)-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Wind-Gusts-Not specified - F

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	58
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	146 hours (Total, all aircraft), 103 hours (Total, this make and model), 146 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Flight Design	Registration:	N370CT
Model/Series:	CTSW	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	912 ULS
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	PGD, 26 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, Variable
Temperature:	25°C / 11°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Punta Gorda, FL (PGD)	Destination:	Punta Gorda, FL (PGD)

Airport Information

Airport:	Charlotte County Airport (PGD)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	33	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	5688 ft / 150 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Shawn Etcher	Adopted Date:	05/12/2009
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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