



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Earlham, IA	Accident Number:	CEN09LA492
Date & Time:	08/01/2009, 1857 CDT	Registration:	N1XY
Aircraft:	STIRLING STARDUSTER	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to a sheriff's incident report, a witness observed the experimental amateur-built biplane perform a roll and then enter into a loop. The report indicated that, as "the plane was coming out of the loop, it did not have enough altitude and that is when it struck the ground." The airplane sustained substantial damage when it impacted a field. An examination of the airplane wreckage revealed no mechanical anomalies.

Flight Events

Maneuvering-aerobatics - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's failure to maintain clearance from the ground during an aerobatic maneuver.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Altitude-Not attained/maintained - C

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	62
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	900 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	STIRLING	Registration:	N1XY
Model/Series:	STARDUSTER	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	PRICE JAMES F.	Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360 A4A
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	DSM, 958 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:	7 knots, 290°
Temperature:	23° C / 10° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	EARLHAM, IA (PVT)	Destination:	EARLHAM, IA (PVT)

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Edward F Malinowski	Adopted Date:	12/20/2010
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74443		

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.