



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Patillas, PR	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA10CA090
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	12/02/2009, 0905 AST	<b>Registration:</b>	N2539K
<b>Aircraft:</b>	PIPER PA-38-112	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Collision during takeoff/land	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

According to the pilot, he conducted a preflight inspection before taking off from the paved, 2,000-foot runway. The takeoff was "normal," but the airplane's climb rate was "not enough to clear trees" at the end of the runway. According to a Federal Aviation Administration inspector, the airplane lifted off about 1,500 feet down the runway. The airplane's right wing subsequently hit a tree located to the right of the runway and sustained substantial damage. The inspector also reported no mechanical anomalies and confirmed compression on all engine cylinders. Photographs of the tree indicated that it was about 50 feet beyond and 50 feet to the right of the runway. Straight out and to the left of runway provided a relatively clear pathway. Using the ambient weather conditions, including a 6-knot headwind, the only takeoff performance data available in the pilot's operating handbook indicated that the airplane's takeoff distance to clear a 50-foot obstacle should have been approximately 1,450 feet.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's inadequate visual lookout and failure to maintain clearance from a tree.

## Findings

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<b>Personnel issues</b>	Monitoring environment - Pilot (Cause)
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

Takeoff	Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event)
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### Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	57, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Unknown
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Unknown	Last Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	400 hours (Total, all aircraft), 100 hours (Total, this make and model)		

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	PIPER	Registration:	N2539K
Model/Series:	PA-38-112	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	38-79A0677
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:		Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:		Engine Manufacturer:	LYCOMING
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	0-235 SERIES
Registered Owner:	VELAZQUEZ RAMON L	Rated Power:	115 hp
Operator:	VELAZQUEZ RAMON L	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	JSJ, 9 ft msl	Observation Time:	0856 AST
Distance from Accident Site:	27 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	2°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 3000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	27° C / 23° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 90°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Patillas, PR (X64)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Ceiba, PR (JRV)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	UTC	Type of Airspace:	

## Airport Information

Airport:	Patillas Airport (X64)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	10 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Used:	10	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2000 ft / 50 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None		

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Paul R Cox	Adopted Date:	05/06/2010
Additional Participating Persons:	Ramon Lopez; FAA/FSDO; San Juan, PR		
Publish Date:	05/06/2010		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	<a href="http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=75127">http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=75127</a>		

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