



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Wild Rose, WI	Accident Number:	CEN10CA451
Date & Time:	08/02/2010, 0630 CDT	Registration:	N775PA
Aircraft:	Piper PA-12	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Ferry		

Analysis

The pilot stated that tailwheel-equipped airplane was accelerating on the takeoff roll when the tail became airborne before rotation speed, which was immediately followed by a left yaw/swerve. He attempted to regain directional control with right rudder and brake inputs, but the airplane continued in the left swerve. He elected to abort the takeoff by reducing engine power to idle while continuing to apply right rudder and brake inputs. He used aggressive braking as the airplane approached the left edge of the runway, but the airplane continued off the runway and struck several trees. He noted that the turf-runway was dew covered and that the wind was at approximately 3 knots, with no gusts. The leading edge of both wings, vertical stabilizer, and rudder were substantially damaged during the accident. A postaccident inspection of the airplane did not reveal any mechanical malfunction of the tailwheel or braking systems.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot's loss of directional control during the takeoff roll.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Wet surface - Effect on operation Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff-rejected takeoff	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline Transport; Commercial	Age:	50, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider; Helicopter	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane; Helicopter	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Multi-engine; Airplane Single-engine; Glider; Helicopter; Instrument Airplane; Instrument Helicopter	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	06/01/2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	6350 hours (Total, all aircraft), 7 hours (Total, this make and model), 6324 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 66 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 32 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Piper	Registration:	N775PA
Model/Series:	PA-12	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Normal	Serial Number:	12-2804
Landing Gear Type:		Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	07/23/2010, 100 Hour	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1935 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	2020 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	O-320-B2B
Registered Owner:	UND Aerospace Foundation	Rated Power:	160 hp
Operator:	UND Aerospace Foundation	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KY50, 859 ft msl	Observation Time:	0656 CDT
Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	180°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 5000 ft agl	Temperature/Dew Point:	19° C / 19° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	6 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 180°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	29.95 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	Light - Mist		
Departure Point:	Wild Rose, WI (W23)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Company VFR
Destination:	Rice Lake, WI (KRPD)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0630 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Wild Rose Idlewild Airport (W23)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	908 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Wet
Runway Used:	27	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2990 ft / 100 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

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
Total Injuries:	1 None		

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Andrew T Fox	Adopted Date:	04/07/2011
Additional Participating Persons:	Timothy H Anderson; Federal Aviation Administration - Milwaukee FSDO; Milwaukee, WI		
Publish Date:	04/07/2011		
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=76813		

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