



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Hayti, SD	Accident Number:	CEN11FA437
Date & Time:	07/02/2011, 2136 CDT	Registration:	N711AT
Aircraft:	AMERICAN CHAMPION AIRCRAFT 7GCBC	Injuries:	3 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The airplane collided with power lines while the pilot was intentionally flying at a low altitude. According to recovered GPS data, the majority of the accident flight was flown at less than 200 feet above ground level (agl). The final minute of recorded GPS data showed the airplane in a descending right turn to an easterly heading at a descent rate of 90 to 100 feet per minute and an average ground speed of 110 knots. The final data point was at an altitude of 50 feet agl as the airplane crossed over the road where the power lines were located. A postaccident examination of the airplane revealed no evidence of mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation. One of the propeller blades had indentations along its leading edge that had the same diameter and profile as the power lines found entangled with the airframe.

The airplane was equipped with tandem seating intended for two individuals. The pilot was found in the front seat, and two 11-year-old children occupied the rear seat. Although the rear seat could accommodate two smaller individuals, it was only equipped with one restraint, and it could not be determined if both children were sharing the restraint at the time of the accident.

Flight Events

Maneuvering-low-alt flying - Low altitude operation/event
Maneuvering-low-alt flying - 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 decision to attempt low-altitude flight and his failure to maintain adequate clearance from power lines.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Altitude-Not attained/maintained - C
Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-Decision making/judgment-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	45
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 207 hours (Total, all aircraft), 51 hours (Total, this make and model), 170 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 14 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	AMERICAN CHAMPION AIRCRAFT	Registration:	N711AT
Model/Series:	7GCBC	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Superior
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A3A2
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	ATY, 1749 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Dusk	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 130°
Temperature:	23°C / 16°C	Visibility:	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Bryant, SD (PVT)	Destination:	Bryant, SD (PVT)

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Andrew T Fox	Adopted Date:	05/14/2014
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=80959		

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