



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Riley, KS	Accident Number:	CEN12CA003
Date & Time:	10/01/2011, 1710 CDT	Registration:	N2417T
Aircraft:	SADLER TERRY RANS S-7 COURIER	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Fuel starvation	Injuries:	1 Serious, 1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that he had finished flying for the day and had turned off the fuel shutoff valve and tied the airplane down. He noticed a family with a 10-year-old boy at the airport and offered to give the boy a ride around the field. The pilot untied the airplane, put the boy in the back seat, started the engine, and taxied to the runway. During takeoff, about 30 feet above ground level, the engine stopped and the airplane impacted the ground and obstructions on the edge of the airport. The impact collapsed the left main landing gear and deformed the forward lower fuselage, causing substantial damage. The pilot reported that he had failed to complete a preflight cockpit check and did not turn on the fuel shutoff valve. In addition, the pilot reported that shoulder harnesses were installed and available but were not worn.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A total loss of engine power during takeoff due to fuel starvation as a result of the pilot's inadequate preflight inspection and failure to ensure that the fuel shutoff valve was turned on before departure.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel selector/shutoff valve - Not used/operated (Cause) Passenger compartment equip - Not used/operated
Personnel issues	Forgotten action/omission - Pilot (Cause) Preflight inspection - Pilot (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Prior to flight	Aircraft inspection event Cabin safety event
Takeoff	Fuel starvation (Defining event) Loss of engine power (total)
Landing	Off-field or emergency landing Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT) Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private; Sport Pilot	Age:	69, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	01/21/2008
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	06/09/2010
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 900 hours (Total, all aircraft), 104 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	SADLER TERRY	Registration:	N2417T
Model/Series:	RANS S-7 COURIER	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	0496185
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/15/2010, Conditional	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1232 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	14 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	186 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	ROTAX
ELT:	C91A installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	912
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	80 hp
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KMHK, 1066 ft msl	Observation Time:	1652 CDT
Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:	156°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C / -2° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	6 knots, 90°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.2 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Riley, KS (1KS3)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Riley, KS (1KS3)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1710 CDT	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Leo's Place Airport (1KS3)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	1350 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	11	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	1100 ft / 30 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced Landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Thomas Latson	Adopted Date:	01/18/2012
Additional Participating Persons:	Kevin Donohue; FAA Wichita FSDO; Wichita, KS Kenneth Marsh; FAA Wichita FSDO; Wichita, KS		
Publish Date:	01/18/2012		
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=81969		

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