



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Tullahoma, TN	Accident Number:	ERA12CA013
Date & Time:	10/03/2011, 1715 CDT	Registration:	N414L
Aircraft:	LOEHLE AIRCRAFT CORP LOEHLE P-40	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

Shortly after taking off and the landing gear left the ground, the airplane entered a bank of about 10 degrees to the left. The pilot initially assumed that the bank had been induced by a crosswind, but the bank continued to increase as the airplane's speed increased. The pilot then leveled the airplane about 75 feet above the ground and slowed to 50 mph in an attempt to evaluate the control issues. While applying full right control stick and full right rudder, the bank would not decrease, so the pilot attempted to perform a forced landing with the bank angle about 45 degrees. When the pilot decreased engine power, the airplane nose rose, and the airplane stalled and spun to the left. The airplane subsequently impacted the ground, resulting in substantial damage to the nose, cockpit, and left wing. No broken flight control cables were found during a postaccident examination; however, due to the extent of impact-related damage to the airplane, operation of the ailerons could not be verified. When asked how the accident could have been prevented, the pilot suggested that a precautionary/aborted landing should have been undertaken upon the first indication of control issues during the takeoff. The airplane's ballistic parachute system did not activate.

Flight Events

Takeoff - Loss of control in flight
Initial climb - Aerodynamic stall/spin

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The pilot's delayed decision to abort the takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft systems-Flight control system-(general)-Not specified - C
Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Delayed action-Pilot - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	69
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	4350 hours (Total, all aircraft), 125 hours (Total, this make and model), 3640 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	LOEHLE AIRCRAFT CORP	Registration:	N414L
Model/Series:	LOEHLE P-40	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	582UL
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MQY, 543 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:	6 knots, 360°
Temperature:	23°C / 4°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Tullahoma, TN (THA)	Destination:	Tullahoma, TN (THA)

Airport Information

Airport:	Tullahoma Regional Airport (THA)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt; Concrete
Runway Used:	36	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	5002 ft / 100 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Dennis Diaz	Adopted 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=82011		

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