



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Caroleen, NC	Accident Number:	ERA12CA094
Date & Time:	12/01/2011, 1945 EST	Registration:	N295JS
Aircraft:	NUSE GEORGE F1H ROCKET	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The tailwheel-equipped experimental amateur-built airplane was departing from a turf runway at night. The pilot reported that he observed two deer crossing the runway and swerved to avoid them. At that time, a flashlight fell from the top of the instrument panel to the floor of the cockpit. The pilot looked down to retrieve the flashlight and did not realize that the airplane had veered off the runway. He subsequently noticed that the airplane did not feel right, looked up, and observed that the airplane was approaching the tree line. The pilot reduced the engine power to idle and applied brakes; however, the airplane struck trees, which resulted in substantial damage to the left wing. The pilot stated that he did not experience any mechanical malfunctions with the airplane.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot did not maintain directional control during takeoff at night due to his distraction with a dropped flashlight, and he delayed his decision to abort the takeoff.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause) Delayed action - Pilot (Cause) Attention - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Dark - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Miscellaneous/other Loss of control on ground (Defining event)
Takeoff-rejected takeoff	Collision during takeoff/land

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	47, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 With Waivers/Limitations	Last Medical Exam:	04/29/2010
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	07/01/2010
Flight Time:	1800 hours (Total, all aircraft), 200 hours (Total, this make and model), 50 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 25 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	NUSE GEORGE	Registration:	N295JS
Model/Series:	F1H ROCKET	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	352
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	12/15/2010, Conditional	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1900 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	146 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540
Registered Owner:	Supair, LLC	Rated Power:	275 hp
Operator:	Supair, LLC	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	GSP, 964 ft msl	Observation Time:	1953 EST
Distance from Accident Site:	32 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Night
Direction from Accident Site:	220°	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	6°C / -2°C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 190°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.33 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Caroleen, NC (8NC2)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Lincolnton, NC (IPJ)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0745 EST	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	Summey (8NC2)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Airport Elevation:	1000 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	14	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 120 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):	Luke Schiada	Adopted Date:	03/27/2012
Additional Participating Persons:	Eric L Newsome; FAA/FSDO; Charlotte, NC		
Publish Date:	03/27/2012		
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=82440		

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