



National Transportation Safety Board

Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Caroleen, NC	Accident Number:	ERA12CA094
Date & Time:	12/01/2011, 1945 EST	Registration:	N295JS
Aircraft:	NUSE GEORGE F1H ROCKET	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.

Flight Events

- Takeoff - Miscellaneous/other
- Takeoff - Loss of control on ground
- Takeoff-rejected takeoff - Collision during takeoff/land

Probable Cause

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-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Directional control-Not attained/maintained - C
- Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C
- Personnel issues-Action/decision-Action-Delayed action-Pilot - C
- Personnel issues-Psychological-Attention/monitoring-Attention-Pilot - C
- Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Light condition-Dark-Contributed to outcome

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	47
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Supair, LLC	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-540
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	GSP, 964 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Night	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	3 knots, 190°
Temperature:	6° C / -2° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Caroleen, NC (8NC2)	Destination:	Lincolnton, NC (IPJ)

Airport Information

Airport:	Summey (8NC2)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	14	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	2500 ft / 120 ft		

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Luke Schiada	Adopted 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		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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