



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	West Caln, PA	Accident Number:	ERA12CA548
Date & Time:	09/01/2012, 1710 EDT	Registration:	N4258M
Aircraft:	HANDY JAMES L BUCKEYE DREAM MACH	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot of the powered parachute, he took off in a westerly direction with a right crosswind, and during the initial climb, the parachute veered left. The pilot tried to correct the direction of flight, but the cart struck a tree and then impacted the ground, seriously injuring the pilot and substantially damaging the metal tube airframe. According to a witness, the powered parachute was flying “normal” until a gust of wind pushed it into the tree. Postaccident examination revealed no preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the powered parachute that would have precluded normal operation. The wind reported at an airport 4 miles to the southeast of the accident location was from 360 degrees at 5 knots.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The pilot’s inadequate compensation for the wind during the initial climb, which resulted in collision with a tree and terrain.

Findings

Aircraft	Crosswind correction - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Response/compensation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Initial climb	Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT) (Defining event)
Uncontrolled descent	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	61, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport Pilot	Last Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	35 hours (Total, all aircraft), 35 hours (Total, this make and model), 1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	HANDY JAMES L	Registration:	N4258M
Model/Series:	BUCKEYE DREAM MACH	Aircraft Category:	Powered Parachute
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental Light Sport	Serial Number:	4399
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	03/08/2012, Conditional	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	140 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	ROTAX
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	582
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	65 hp
Operator:	On file	Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MQS, 660 ft msl	Observation Time:	1655 EDT
Distance from Accident Site:	4 Nautical Miles	Condition of Light:	Day
Direction from Accident Site:		Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Temperature/Dew Point:	24° C / 19° C
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility	10 Miles
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	5 knots, 360°	Visibility (RVR):	
Altimeter Setting:	30.04 inches Hg	Visibility (RVV):	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	West Caln, PA	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	West Caln, PA	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1710 EDT	Type of Airspace:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Brian C Rayner	Adopted Date:	02/14/2013
Additional Participating Persons:	Edward D Coudon; FAA/FSDO; Philadelphia, PA		
Publish Date:	02/14/2013		
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=84951		

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