



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	West Caln, PA	Accident Number:	ERA12CA548
Date & Time:	09/01/2012, 1710 EDT	Registration:	N4258M
Aircraft:	HANDY JAMES L BUCKEYE DREAM MACH	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.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Controlled flight into terr/obj (CFIT)

Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

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-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Crosswind correction-Not attained/maintained - C

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Wind-Crosswind-Response/compensation - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	61
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
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	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	ROTAX
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	582
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	MQS, 660 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:	5 knots, 360°
Temperature:	24° C / 19° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	West Caln, PA	Destination:	West Caln, PA

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Brian C Rayner	Adopted 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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