



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Snohomish, WA	Accident Number:	WPR14CA004
Date & Time:	10/03/2013, 1500 PDT	Registration:	N143TZ
Aircraft:	VENABLES ZENITH CH701	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that during a test flight the airplane encountered moderate turbulence so he decided to return to the airport for landing. While turning to the crosswind leg in the pattern, the airplane suddenly banked sharply and descended uncontrollably. The pilot was able to regain control about 500 feet above ground level, and managed to turn the airplane to the downwind leg, but he continued to have difficulty maintaining control. The pilot then decided to make an emergency off airport landing to a field. During the landing roll, the airplane collided with obstructions and nosed over. The wings and fuselage were substantially damaged. After the accident, the pilot reported that the loss of aircraft control was due to a jammed rudder for undetermined reasons.

Flight Events

Enroute - Flight control sys malf/fail
Landing - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A jammed rudder control while maneuvering in the pattern for reasons that could not be determined. No follow-up examination was conducted due to a lapse in agency funding and subsequent government shutdown.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft systems-Flight control system-Rudder control system-Malfunction - C
Environmental issues-Physical environment-Terrain-Rough terrain-Not specified
Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	72
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	223 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5 hours (Total, this make and model), 223 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 9 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	VENABLES ZENITH	Registration:	N143TZ
Model/Series:	CH701	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	912ULS
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	PAE	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Light and Variable/ 5 knots
Temperature:	16 °C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Snohomish, WA (S43)	Destination:	Snohomish, WA (S43)

Airport Information

Airport:	Harvey Field (S43)	Runway Surface Type:	N/A
Runway Used:	N/A	Runway Surface Condition:	Unknown
Runway Length/Width:			

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):	Debra J Eckrote	Adopted Date:	12/02/2013
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=88173		

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