



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Durango, CO	Accident Number:	CEN14LA277
Date & Time:	06/01/2014, 1426 MDT	Registration:	N583KM
Aircraft:	CIRRUS DESIGN CORP SR22	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The student pilot was conducting a solo flight from his home airport on the coast to an airport located in the mountains. Just before landing, the airplane encountered a “strong downward gust,” likely due to a combination of high-wind conditions (the local weather was wind at 16 knots gusting to 24 knots about the time of the accident) and a steep terrain dropoff near the approach end of the runway. The pilot attempted a go-around, but the engine did not respond with full power. He subsequently lost control of the airplane, which then impacted left of the runway. The pilot reported that the mixture might have been “too rich” during the go-around attempt.

Examination of the engine revealed excessive sooting on the spark plugs, which is indicative of an over-rich mixture condition; this condition likely resulted in the partial loss of engine power during the go-around attempt. The student pilot had not flown into the mountain airport before and had not been cleared to fly the route by a flight instructor.

Flight Events

Approach-VFR pattern final - Turbulence encounter
Approach-VFR pattern final - Loss of control in flight
Approach-VFR go-around - Loss of engine power (partial)

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The student pilot’s decision to fly solo into an unfamiliar, mountain airport during high-wind conditions. Contributing to the accident was a partial loss of engine power during the attempted go-around, which was caused by an over-rich mixture setting.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft power plant-Engine controls-Mixture control-Incorrect use/operation - F
Personnel issues-Action/decision-Info processing/decision-Decision making/judgment-Pilot - C
Environmental issues-Conditions/weather/phenomena-Wind-High wind-Decision related to condition - C

Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	52
Airplane Rating(s):	None	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	183 hours (Total, all aircraft), 151 hours (Total, this make and model), 24 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 24 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	CIRRUS DESIGN CORP	Registration:	N583KM
Model/Series:	SR22	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	BUCKSBAUM ROBERT	Engine Manufacturer:	CONT MOTOR
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	IO-550 SERIES
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KDRO, 6685 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Pilot
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	16 knots/ 24 knots, 270°
Temperature:	27° C / -14° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Santa Monica, CA (KSMO)	Destination:	Durango, CO (00C)

Airport Information

Airport:	ANIMAS AIR PARK (00C)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	01	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	5010 ft / 50 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):	Michael J Folkerts	Adopted Date:	02/04/2015
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=89377		

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