



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Greene, NY	Accident Number:	ERA14LA418
Date & Time:	09/01/2014, 1200 EDT	Registration:	N94SL
Aircraft:	LORENZ STEPHEN KITFOX SERIES 5	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The private pilot, who had no previous experience in the airplane make and model, had purchased it about 1 year earlier and then stored it in his garage until the day of the accident. On the day of the accident, the pilot added 4 gallons of gas; he subsequently started the engine, taxied the airplane, and conducted engine run-ups for about 30 minutes to familiarize himself with the airplane. He powered up the engine three or four times, and during the last power up, the airplane lifted off. The pilot reported that he then attempted a three-point landing; this is all that he remembered about the accident sequence.

A witness reported that, after takeoff, the airplane “jerked” right and that the power settings changed. The airplane then “straightened out and smoothed out” and then continued to climb slowly to about 200 ft above the ground, at which point it banked “hard” left and then descended to impact. Another witness reported that the airplane “tipped” and “stalled” before its descent. A postcrash fire ensued, which consumed most of the airplane.

No preexisting mechanical anomalies were found that would have precluded normal operation, and the pilot reported no preexisting mechanical malfunctions or failures. Wind recorded at an airport about 10 miles from the departure airport about the time of the accident was from the direction of takeoff at 4 knots, and a witness noted that both windsocks were “dead” at the accident airport.

Flight Events

Initial climb - Aerodynamic stall/spin

Initial climb - Loss of control in flight

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 failure to attain adequate airspeed during the initial climb, which resulted in an exceedance of the wing’s critical angle-of-attack and a subsequent aerodynamic stall. Contributing to the accident was the pilot’s lack of experience in the airplane make and model.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Angle of attack-Capability exceeded - C

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

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

Personnel issues-Experience/knowledge-Experience/qualifications-Total experience w/ equipment-

Pilot - F

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	70
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	2400 hours (Total, all aircraft), 0.1 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	LORENZ STEPHEN	Registration:	N94SL
Model/Series:	KITFOX SERIES 5	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Subaru
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	NSI-E81
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	BGM, 1636 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	Overcast / 3800 ft agl
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots, 250°
Temperature:	23°C / 19°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Greene, NY (4N7)	Destination:	Greene, NY (4N7)

Airport Information

Airport:	Greene Airport (4N7)	Runway Surface Type:	Grass/turf
Runway Used:	25	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry; Vegetation
Runway Length/Width:	2665 ft / 200 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

