



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Erie, CO	Accident Number:	CEN18LA080
Date & Time:	01/18/2018, 1605 MST	Registration:	N907T
Aircraft:	TOMLINSON TRACY L TUKAN	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control in flight	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Instructional		

Analysis

The flight instructor and student pilot conducted seven takeoffs and landings on a dual instructional flight in the weight-shift-controlled aircraft. The aircraft was operating normally. After the dual instruction, the aircraft was taxied back to a hangar, where the instructor explained single-pilot operations to the student. The student pilot then took off solo. The instructor observed that the student pilot seemed to lose control on his first final approach and executed a go-around. On the second approach, the instructor observed the aircraft on final; it collided with trees and the wing struck the ground, which resulted in substantial damage. Postaccident examination of the aircraft did not reveal any preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures with the airframe or engine that would have precluded normal operation. The student pilot indicated that, while securing the aircraft after the accident, he realized that he had inadvertently shut off the fuel valve while on the downwind leg instead of activating the carburetor heat. He stated that the two systems had similar push/pull control knobs that were positioned next to each other in the cockpit.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The student pilot's inadvertent shutting off of the fuel valve while on approach, which resulted in a loss of engine power due to fuel starvation and impact with terrain.

Findings

Aircraft	Fuel - Fluid management (Cause)
Personnel issues	Incorrect action performance - Pilot (Cause) Use of equip/system - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

Factual Information

On January 18, 2018, about 1605 mountain standard time, a Tukan experimental, amateur-built weight-shift aircraft, N907T, was substantially damaged when it collided with trees and terrain during an approach to Erie Municipal Airport (ELK), Erie, Colorado. The student pilot sustained minor injuries. The aircraft was registered to a private individual and the flight was conducted as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 solo training flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed throughout the area and no flight plan was filed for the flight. The flight originated from ELK about 1600.

A flight instructor flew the aircraft with the student pilot and conducted seven landings and takeoffs. The aircraft was operating normally during the dual instructional flight. After the dual instruction, the aircraft was taxied back to a hangar where the instructor pilot explained single pilot operations to the student. The student pilot then took off solo and entered the landing pattern. The instructor pilot observed that the student seemed to lose control on his first final approach and executed a go-around. On the second approach, the instructor observed the aircraft on final. The aircraft collided with trees and the wing struck the ground, resulting in substantial damage.

According to the student pilot, while securing the airplane after the accident, he realized that he had inadvertently shut off the fuel valve while on the downwind leg instead of activating the carburetor heat. He stated that the two systems had similar push/pull control knobs that were positioned next to each other in the cockpit.

Examination of the wreckage at the accident site by a Federal Aviation Administration inspector did not reveal any pre-impact mechanical with the airframe or engine.

History of Flight

Landing	Loss of control in flight (Defining event) Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
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Student Pilot Information

Certificate:	Student	Age:	68, 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:	None None	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 35 hours (Total, all aircraft), 35 hours (Total, this make and model), 1 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 1 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	TOMLINSON TRACY L	Registration:	N907T
Model/Series:	TUKAN NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Weight-Shift
Year of Manufacture:	2000	Amateur Built:	No
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	11760
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	741.7 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	AMA/EXPR
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	UNKNOWN ENG
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	80 hp
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	EIK, 5119 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1554 MST	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	Obscured	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	4 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	360°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.02 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13° C / -7° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	Erie, CO (EIK)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Erie, CO (EIK)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1600 MST	Type of Airspace:	Class E

Airport Information

Airport:	Erie Municipal (EIK)	Runway Surface Type:	Concrete
Airport Elevation:	5119 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	33	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4700 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop

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
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	40.010278, -105.048056 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Alexander Lemishko	Report Date:	06/03/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Michael Anderson; FAA FSDO; Denver, CO		
Publish Date:	06/03/2020		
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.		
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.ntsb.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=96632		

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