



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	San Saba, TX	Accident Number:	GAA18CA393
Date & Time:	07/04/2018, 0915 CDT	Registration:	N127VV
Aircraft:	Zenair ZENITH STOL CH 701	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	2 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during takeoff, he applied right rudder to counteract the left turning tendencies of the airplane, but the airplane continued left of the runway centerline. He was unable to correct back to the runway centerline when the airplane was about 5 to 10 ft above the ground, so he decided to abort the takeoff and land on the grass left of the runway. During the landing, the airplane landed hard, the nose landing gear "dug" into the grass, and the airplane nosed over.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wings and empennage.

The pilot reported that there were no preaccident mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

Probable Cause and Findings

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

The pilot's improper landing flare during the aborted takeoff, which resulted in a hard landing and a nose-over.

Findings

Aircraft	Landing flare - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Soft surface - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Takeoff	Miscellaneous/other Attempted remediation/recovery
Landing	Hard landing
Takeoff-rejected takeoff	Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	60, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	3-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Sport Pilot	Last FAA Medical Exam:	
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	05/18/2018
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 581.3 hours (Total, all aircraft), 6.3 hours (Total, this make and model), 469.9 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 25.4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 4.1 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 0.3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Zenair	Registration:	N127VV
Model/Series:	ZENITH STOL CH 701 No Series	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2003	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	74326
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	09/08/2017, Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1100 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	816.5 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:	C91A installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	912ULS
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	100 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:	KAQO, 1102 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	27 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	1410 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	174°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	/	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	San Saba, TX (81R)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Llano, TX (AQO)	Type of Clearance:	VFR
Departure Time:	0915 CDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	SAN SABA COUNTY MUNI (81R)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	1255 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	13	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	4205 ft / 60 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	None

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 None	Latitude, Longitude:	31.237222, -98.719167 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Kathryn R Benhoff	Report Date:	03/18/2019
Additional Participating Persons:	Victor H Lopez; FAA; North Texas, TX		
Publish Date:	03/18/2019		
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=97697		

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), established in 1967, is an independent federal agency mandated by Congress through the Independent Safety Board Act of 1974 to investigate transportation accidents, determine the probable causes of the accidents, issue safety recommendations, study transportation safety issues, and evaluate the safety effectiveness of government agencies involved in transportation. The NTSB makes public its actions and decisions through accident reports, safety studies, special investigation reports, safety recommendations, and statistical reviews.

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