



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Monte Vista, CO	Accident Number:	GAA19CA023
Date & Time:	10/13/2018, 1700 MDT	Registration:	N14GX
Aircraft:	Skystar KITFOX SER 5 SAFARI	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Loss of control on ground	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

A pilot-rated witness at the airport reported that, during the airplane's approach, it appeared to be low and fast. The airplane landed hard, bounced about 4 to 5 ft, and then touched back down on the runway. The witness added that it appeared that the pilot tried to increase power to recover, but while the airplane was about 2 ft off the ground, it turned left. The wings then leveled shortly before the airplane aerodynamically stalled and then nosed over into brush.

The pilot reported that, while "taxiing," he "over sped" the airplane, and the left main landing gear impacted a berm. Subsequently, the airplane veered left and bounced, the right wing impacted the ground, and the airplane then ground looped and came to rest nose down.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and windscreen.

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

An automated weather observation station about 10 miles from the accident site reported that, about 5 minutes before the accident, the wind was from 250° at 14 knots, gusting to 25 knots. The pilot landed the airplane on runway 16.

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 in gusting crosswind conditions, which resulted in a hard, bounced landing and his subsequent failure to maintain directional control.

Findings

Aircraft	Directional control - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Crosswind - Effect on operation Gusts - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing	Hard landing Loss of control on ground (Defining event) Aerodynamic stall/spin Nose over/nose down
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	58, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without Waivers/Limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	11/07/2016
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 500 hours (Total, all aircraft), 100 hours (Total, this make and model)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Skystar	Registration:	N14GX
Model/Series:	KITFOX SER 5 SAFARI SERIES 5	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	1998	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	S9801-0143
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	10/13/2018, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	50 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Continental
ELT:	Installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	IO-240
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	125 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:	KALS, 7541 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2252 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	122°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	14 knots / 25 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	250°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	29.81 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	18° C / -7° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Monte Vista, CO (MVI)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Monte Vista, CO (MVI)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1700 MDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	MONTE VISTA MUNI (MVI)	Runway Surface Type:	Dirt
Airport Elevation:	7611 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	Soft; Vegetation
Runway Used:	16	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2300 ft / 30 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop

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
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	37.531389, -106.044167 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric A Swenson	Report Date:	06/05/2019
Additional Participating Persons:	Harvey E Haynes; FAA; Denver, CO		
Publish Date:	06/05/2019		
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=98490		

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