



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	Langley, WA	Accident Number:	GAA20CA018
Date & Time:	10/11/2019, 1530 PDT	Registration:	N612RF
Aircraft:	FOXWORTHY RICK A SONEX	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Low altitude operation/event	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Flight Test		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, while on left base leg in the traffic pattern, the airplane was high. He made a 270° descending right turn to final and added 20° of flaps. The airplane descended faster than expected, and the left wing struck a tree. The airplane then impacted terrain and came to rest inverted, and a postcrash fire ensued. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and both wings. 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 failure to maintain a proper approach path, which resulted in impact with a tree.

Findings

Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained (Cause)
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot (Cause)
Environmental issues	Tree(s) - Effect on operation (Cause)

Factual Information

History of Flight

Maneuvering	Low altitude operation/event (Defining event)
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Sport Pilot	Age:	65, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	
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:	04/23/2019
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 160.4 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1.8 hours (Total, this make and model), 160.4 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4.3 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	FOXWORTHY RICK A	Registration:	N612RF
Model/Series:	SONEX	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2014	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	1559
Landing Gear Type:	Tricycle	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	Unknown	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1150 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	4.5 Hours at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Aerovee
ELT:	C91A installed, activated, aided in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	Aerovee 2.1
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:	KPAE, 606 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	9 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	2253 UTC	Direction from Accident Site:	136°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	10 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	340°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.1 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C / -1°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Langley, WA (W10)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Langley, WA (W10)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	1500 PDT	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Airport Information

Airport:	Whidbey Air Park (W10)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	271 ft	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:	34	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	2470 ft / 25 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full Stop; Traffic Pattern

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	48.017500, -122.437778 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Eric M Gutierrez	Report Date:	05/21/2020
Additional Participating Persons:	Christopher Melchior; FAA; Des Moines, WA		
Publish Date:	05/21/2020		
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=100417		

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The Independent Safety Board Act, as codified at 49 U.S.C. Section 1154(b), precludes the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an incident or accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report. A factual report that may be admissible under 49 U.S.C. § 1154(b) is available [here](#).