



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Byron, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR20LA035
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	11/29/2019, 1545 PST	<b>Registration:</b>	N701WJ
<b>Aircraft:</b>	ZENITH STOL CH701	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Flight Test		

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On November 29, 2019, about 1545 Pacific standard time, an experimental Zenith CH-701 STOL, N701WJ, experienced a partial loss of engine power after takeoff from the Byron Airport, Byron, California. The pilot, who was the registered owner, was operating the airplane under the provisions of 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91. The private pilot, the sole occupant, was uninjured; the airplane sustained substantial damage to the wing struts. The personal local flight was departing from Byron. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan had been filed.

The pilot stated that he had recently fabricated and installed a cowling for the airplane. After completing an uneventful high-speed taxi test run, he decided to depart and remain in the pattern. The pilot configured the airplane for takeoff on runway 23 and applied full-power. He turned onto the crosswind leg of the traffic pattern and felt a abnormal vibration accompanied with a slight loss in engine rpm. He continued onto the downwind leg and the airplane was about 500 ft above ground level (agl) when he was midfield. The airplane started to lose altitude and he observed the water temperature gauge indicating 250° F; maximum operating temperature was 220° F.

The pilot further stated that the airplane continued to descended to 100 ft agl, he reached the threshold of runway 23 and made a left turn in an attempt to land on runway 30. While trying to align with the runway, the wind pushed the airplane onto the grass. The airplane touched down hard and nosed over, coming to rest inverted.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	ZENITH	<b>Registration:</b>	N701WJ
<b>Model/Series:</b>	STOL CH701	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Amateur Built:</b>	Yes		
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KSCK, 27 ft msl	<b>Observation Time:</b>	1555 PST
<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	19 Nautical Miles	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	11° C / 3° C
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Few / 6000 ft agl	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	4 knots / , 140°
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Broken / 7500 ft agl	<b>Visibility:</b>	10 Miles
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.89 inches Hg	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Byron, CA (C83)	<b>Destination:</b>	Byron, CA (C83)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	37.830278, -121.626111 (est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Zoe Keliher
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	David Vickers; Federal Aviation Administration; Oakland, CA
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.