

Record of Telephone Conversation with Pilot

Accident Involving N86FB – NTSB Case# CEN13CA302

April 14, 2013

Summary of Conversation

While fast taxiing the experimental airplane that the pilot had been rebuilding for almost 2 years, it pitched up and became airborne. He did not have enough runway left to land safely. It had happened once before and being unfamiliar with the controls, he decided that the safest thing to do was to continue flying the airplane about 5 miles to an airport that had multiple long runways and to try to land. He flew the airplane in a large circle to the Angelina county airport trying to get the feel for the controls so he would be better prepared to attempt a landing. He had put a 10 pound sack of sand in the rear seat that he had taken off the front canard. He said that the weight helped the plane from tipping over backward when the motor is not running and no one is in the cockpit. He said that he intended to buckle the sandbag in when he entered the plane to do the taxi test because he would only have to bend down one time to secure the bag in the back seat. He said that he is a 100% disabled service veteran with back, legs, and knee wounds so he tries to keep getting up and down to a minimum. While circling for a long final approach he started to let down the control stick and the elevator froze and the airplane pitched down. He could not move the control stick rearward to arrest the descent. He knew that he had a problem and that there was nowhere to turn, so he elected to straight ahead on a course that would allow him to hopefully land in a small lake and maybe survive the crash. He tried everything to release the control and even put so much back pressure on the controls that it bent the stick, still with no change. He saw wires and was hoping that he would clear them the airplane hit the wires in the middle of the lines. Both wings came off and the airplane caught fire and fell straight down, about 50 feet. To his amazement he was still alive and unhurt, but then he received a large jolt of electricity which burned every place where his skin was touching metal. He was strapped in the airplane and it was on fire. Three young men appeared and cut the straps and drug him free of the airplane. The airplane burned completely in about 2-3 minutes. The pilot later looked at the burned out fuselage and confirmed that the sand bag was where he thought it had ended up, between the back seat and the rear control stick. He said that he should have taken the time to secure the sandbag prior to the taxi test

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