



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Central Region - Denver, Colorado

June 30, 2016

Memorandum of Record

Subject: CEN13LA581, N8878B, Rio Vista, TX

This accident was originally assigned to Mr. Alex Lemishko, Senior ASI. Mr. Lemishko suffered a serious health condition during the investigation. The investigation was subsequently completed by another investigator using limited evidence retrieved from Mr. Lemishko's records and evidence collected almost three years after the accident. Some details of the factual report were only available in the preliminary report created by Mr. Lemishko. Those details were assumed to be accurate and were incorporated into the final factual report. The following information from the preliminary report was used to produce the final written factual report.

On September 30, 2013, about 1300 central daylight time, a Cessna 172 airplane, N8878B, crashed during takeoff from Lowell Smith Airport (3TX6), Rio Vista, Texas. The airline transport pilot, the student pilot, and the passenger were uninjured. The airplane sustained substantial damage to both wings and the firewall. The airplane was registered to a private individual and operated by the owner as a 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions existed at the accident site at the time of the accident, and the local flight was conducted without a flight plan.

The ATP rated pilot and the student pilot onboard the airplane provided similar statements. The student pilot was performing the takeoff and the airplane became airborne one-half to three-quarters the way down the grass runway. The airplane did not accelerate once airborne and the airplane stalled at an altitude of about 70 feet.

The statements of the witness were not documented elsewhere, but were consistent with the information reported to the Federal Aviation Administration, Flight Standards District Office, Houston, Texas.

Dr. David Bowling
Regional Chief
NTSB, Central Region

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