

August 21, 2014

At approximately 14:45 I noticed a Zodiac 601 abort landing attempts twice so I went outside of my office which is located at the approach end of runway 14. On his third attempt I witnessed him high and the wind gusts were buffeting the aircraft significantly. He leveled out above the runway at approximately 40 to 50' and decelerated to a relatively slow speed. He added and reduced power several times after leveling out at a dangerously high level when taking into account his slow airspeed. Now the planes groundspeed was very slow and he was approaching the 1000' mark down the runway still very high and slow. He appeared to add partial power and started a left bank which I knew was a critical mistake because it put him turning downwind. I ran out on to the ramp knowing a crash was imminent. With the airspeed very slow the initiation of a left (downwind) turn the right crosswind got under the right wing and significantly increased the bank angle. At approximately 30 degree bank angle the left wing appeared to stall and the bank angle increased to 90 degrees and the plane descended into the ground left wing first. The aircraft cartwheeled after impact. I called 911 and had my wife call Roger Hansen (airport manager), grabbed the fire extinguishers and went to the scene to assist. All the while I was feeding information to the 911 operator as needed until first responders arrived. I was asked to provide statements to both the police and DPS officer at the scene.

Robert W. Snowden

Pilot Certificate [REDACTED]