



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Investigator name: Shaun Williams
Title: Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Region: Central

Date: 14 September, 2020
Person Contacted: Mr. Craig Bair
NTSB Accident Number: CEN20LA389

Narrative:

On September 13, 2020, about 1100 central daylight time (CDT), an American Champion 8KCAB, N83DH, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Groton, South Dakota. The commercial pilot and passenger sustained fatal injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* Part 91 personal flight.

Mr. Bair was on about a ¼ mile final in the traffic pattern and observed the accident sequence. He stated that he watch the accident airplane taxi out to the runway and takeoff. During the takeoff, it did not appear that the accident airplane remained in ground effect long before it pitched up and initiated a roll with a rapid roll rate. He estimated the altitude to be between 75ft AGL and 100ft AGL. He stated that the roll appeared, from his vantage point, to be intentional.

He observed the airplane impact the ground in a nose low attitude.

End of Interview



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Title: Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Region: Central

Date: 14 September, 2020
Person Contacted: Mr. Darrell Hillestead
NTSB Accident Number: CEN20LA389

Narrative:

On September 13, 2020, about 1100 central daylight time (CDT), an American Champion 8KCAB, N83DH, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Groton, South Dakota. The commercial pilot and passenger sustained fatal injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* Part 91 personal flight.

Mr. Hillestead was reported by law enforcement to be the organizer of the fly-in event. At the time of the accident, he was in the air, about mid-field downwind. He stated that all the aircraft were there for a "poker run" to Redfield. He said that the accident pilot plus an additional 5 aircraft had flown in from Clark to raise money to "help kids get into aviation." He said that he was unaware of any intent for aerobatics.

Mr. Hillestead observed the takeoff and said that after takeoff, the airplane pitched up, started to roll and became inverted with the nose down. As the airplane was completing the roll, it impacted the ground. He said that he was unaware of any intent for aerobatics.

He said that at the time of the accident, the winds were from the south about 8- 10 knots. About 15-20 minutes following the accident, the wind velocity increased and the direction changed.

END OF INTERVIEW



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Title: Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Region: Central

Date: 14 September, 2020
Person Contacted: Mr. Bruce Babcock
NTSB Accident Number: CEN20LA389

Narrative:

On September 13, 2020, about 1100 central daylight time (CDT), an American Champion 8KCAB, N83DH, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Groton, South Dakota. The commercial pilot and passenger sustained fatal injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations (CFR)* Part 91 personal flight.

Mr. Babcock was on the ground about mid-field and observed the accident airplane at the time of the event. He stated that he was a commercial pilot with previous Part 121 experience. He said that at the time of the accident, the winds were light and from the south. It was not until after the accident, that the winds shifted.

According to Mr. Babcock, after taking off, the airplane began a steep pitch up, about 45° nose high and rolled right. It appeared to stall when the airplane was inverted and “pulling through.” He said the airplane completed the roll nose low, impacted the ground and flipped over.

When asked about the sounds of the engine, he stated that it sounded healthy from where he was and he never heard a “cough” or other noise. He reiterated that he was not right by the airplane when it crashed to hear the engine immediately before the accident.

When asked, Mr. Babcock stated that no one else was doing aerobatics.

END OF INTERVIEW