

Memorandum of Conversation

Date: 19 July 2021

Time: 1052 central daylight time

Conversation Including: Gerald S. Freeman; Pilot

Conversation Regarding: CEN21LA322, N334LA



Summary & Factual Information from Conversation:

Mr. Freeman stated the purpose of the aerial-application flight was to spray insecticide on agricultural fields. The airplane had about 130 gallons of JetA fuel and about 3,600 lbs of insecticide product at the time of the takeoff. Mr. Freeman estimated that the airplane's takeoff weight was about 8,800 lbs.

Mr. Freeman stated that he had been operating out of Skalitsky Airport, a private airstrip about 1 mile east of Edcouch, Texas, and that he had flown 4 uneventful flights before the accident occurred during his fifth takeoff for the day. He had used the asphalt portion of the east/west runway (1,900 ft by 30 ft) earlier in the day with no issues. There was an additional 500 ft of turf/dirt runway off the west end of the asphalt runway that was too soggy from recent rain. The surface wind was from 140° magnetic at 8 to 9 knots earlier in the day, but it had changed to a direct crosswind from the south at 15 to 20 knots at the time of the accident.

Mr. Freeman stated that the engine was developing proper torque and rpm during the takeoff run, but shortly after liftoff a wind gust decreased the airplane's climb, and the airplane's main landing gear contacted a 10 ft tall sugarcane crop off the end of the runway. After contacting the sugarcane, the airplane descended into the field where the airplane landed hard on the right main landing gear. The airplane came to rest in a nose down attitude in the muddy field, with the outboard 1/3 of the right wing was bent upward.

Mr. Freeman stated that there were no mechanical anomalies with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation during the flight.

--- End of interview summary ---

I can attest that the above summary and factual information was taken on the above stated day, and is correct to the best of my knowledge:

Signed: _ Andrew Todd Fox _

Dated: _ 19 July 2021 _

Andrew Todd Fox
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator