

Timothy Sorensen
Sr. Aviation Accident Investigator
Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: November 29, 2022
Subject: CEN23FA050 - Gage, Oklahoma
Contact: Ron Cox - Witness

Mr. Cox reported the pilot/owner had called him from the Gage Airport asking for access to the hangar. He gave the pilot/owner the door combination and then drove out to the airport. When he arrived, he observed the airplane taxi out for takeoff. The pilot/owner was seated in the right (co-pilot) seat. A friend was in the left seat.

They took off toward the south, and it appeared that the wing flaps were extended. The engine sounded "fine." After lifting off, the airplane porpoised and entered a "steep" left turn. They subsequently flew out to the north. Mr. Cox's perception was that the friend was flying.

After returning to the airport, they appeared to be lined up on final approach for the turf runway. Mr. Cox proceeded to open the hangar door. As he did so, he heard the impact and turned to see the airplane. He went to the accident site and called 911.

Mr. Cox noted that the pilot/owner was bringing the airplane to Gage from Vici, Oklahoma, where it was based previously. Apparently, when the pilot/owner didn't get hold of Mr. Cox on his initial call, the pilot/owner contacted a friend to go for a short flight.

The weather consisted of "good" visibility and a gusty southwest wind of 10 - 15 knots.

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