

From: Steve Compton

To: Caneva, Brandon (FAA)

Subject: Accident 11/7/2022

Date: Monday, November 7, 2022, 11:15:32 AM

Mr. Caneva:

Kerry Fender asked me to write a statement regarding our accident on 11/7/22 in Murdo, SD. We arrived at the airport and the wind was blowing pretty hard, I'm not sure the actual speed. But it was coming almost straight down the runway (I assume it was coming from the North-Northwest). We untied the plane and Kerry did all the pre check things (I am not a pilot, and I don't know exactly what all is done but he seemed very thorough). By the time we got loaded and ready the wind had shifted slightly and was coming at an angle to the runway, but it was shifting from almost directly in our face to a slight angle coming from Left to Right. We went to the end of the runway and turned around and waited for the wind to shift again. When it did, Kerry accelerated, and we were going along pretty good. As we began to lift up, a gust of wind hit is from the side, and it knocked us off the runway into the grass. Kerry had backed off the throttle, but we were moving along at a pretty good speed, and I noticed we were quickly approaching the fence. The next thing I remember is looking ahead and seeing a fairly large hill or bump (I'd say maybe a 3-4-foot rise, followed by a drop of about 2-3 feet then another rise. I wasn't sure what was going to happen, but we went a little airborne. If I had to guess, I'd say we went up about 6 feet or so and then bounced a few times and then the nose of the plane just dug into the ground, and we stopped. I would fly with Kerry again with no worries. He is a very attentive pilot and seems to know exactly how to handle his plane. Safety is his number one priority; he keeps his eyes on the gauges/ instruments and is always aware of weather conditions as well as the plane's conditions.

Steve Compton