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Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: June 5, 2023
Subject: CEN23LA211, Penrose, Colorado
Contact: Cory Thompson, Pilot

On May 31, 2023, about 0945 mountain daylight time, a Wittman W10 Tailwind airplane, N456TW, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident at Fremont County Airport (1V6), Penrose, Colorado. The pilot and passenger were not injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

In a phone conversation with the pilot, Cory Thompson, he stated the following:

He was acting as PIC in the right seat. His partner, who was the registered owner, was in the left seat. She had just completed 3 landings from the left seat. During the next takeoff the airplane got to about rotation speed and he felt that he had equal pressure on both rudder pedals. Suddenly the right pedal broke full forward and he inadvertently input left rudder since his foot already had pressure on the left side. The airplane struck a berm off the side of the runway which collapsed the gear. The airplane came to rest upright with damage to the gear and the right side fuselage. The U-shaped metal structure, which holds the right side pedals in place when they're in use, broke at the weld and allowed the right pedal to go full forward beyond the normal travel limit.

The pilot provided the following information to the FAA:

As for the pedal [assembly], I'm not sure if I want to release it or not. The aircraft is repairable, and I may repair it. If need be, I can remove the pedal [assembly], but it will likely be a 36" long assy.

As for the rudder pedal [assembly], it was fabricated and welded by the builder. This aircraft is not a kit. Scratch built from plans.

Total airframe time of the accident airplane: 339.3 hours

Last regulatory check ride date? 61.56(a) 9/2022

Hours in make/model? Make (Paul Holmes) 8.2 hours in Model W-10 "Tailwind" 37

Hours in last 90 days? 53.2

Hours in last year? 195

Total flight hours? 8,105

END