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Sent: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 6:21 AM
To: Hodges Michael [REDACTED]
Subject: N341JD Incident_Flippin AR

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I received a call from Marion County Regional Airport Manager (Doug Harrison) at 0845 on Friday 2 June to report an aircraft incident at Flippin, Arkansas (FLP) involving an Experimental Homebuilt Light Sport aircraft (SkyKits Savannah VGW; Registered as N314JD).

During the takeoff roll, the 79 year-old pilot (Dan Rosan / [REDACTED]) struggled to maintain directional control and the aircraft veered toward the left edge of the runway.

The pilot attempted to abort the takeoff and reduced engine power to idle; however, the pilot continued to hold the aircraft in a nose high attitude and the aircraft became airborne. The aircraft flew over the taxiway and collided with terrain adjacent to the taxiway. The hard impact collapsed the main and nose gear and caused the right wingtip to strike the ground. Due to the damage to the fuselage and firewall, the aircraft sustained substantial damage. The pilot was uninjured.

I traveled to the FLP on 3 June, inspected the aircraft and logbooks and interviewed the pilot. Aircraft inspection was limited to the landing gear and components that could cause directional instability.

Left and right main landing gear was folded aft but still attached to the aircraft. Wheels and axels appeared straight and both were spun without impediment. Brake wear was symmetrical on both sides. Brake Master Cylinders appeared functional with adequate brake fluid. There were no leaks, visible damage, or observable air in lines. Both left and right tire appeared serviceable with some wear but not sufficient to cause directional stability issues. There were no observable obstructions to rudder pedals and rudder control continuity was established.

On-scene inspection did not reveal an airframe mechanical probable cause of incident.

After speaking to the pilot and others familiar with the pilot's flying proficiency, the accident was most likely caused by pilot's failure to maintain adequate control of the aircraft.

I found tire marks on the runway that veer to the left and are in-line with the aircraft's direction. The marks show both left and right tire drag marks with the left being darker, more pronounced, more consistent. Marks show the pilot used excessive left braking in an attempt to maintain directional control.

After speaking with the pilot, he stated he may have inadvertently kept his left foot on the rudder pedal and engaging the toe brakes while attempting takeoff.

Pilot holds a valid student pilot certificate ([REDACTED]) and has about 15 hours total flight time.

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