

Inspector Statement 20260104 Rager TX Bonanza Pilot Interview

Pilot in command was interviewed by phone. Pilot stated that he had intended to depart the privately owned airstrip to the south as winds at the surface were observed to be approximately 10 knots favoring a southerly departure. Pilot stated that the aircraft was accelerating normally during the takeoff role and broke ground where it typically did on the departure runway. Pilot stated that all engine operations appeared normal. Pilot stated that when the aircraft was approximately 50 feet AGL, it stopped accelerating and began to descend with a drift and roll to the left before impacting the trees adjacent to the runway. Pilot stated that the indications were likely from a wind shear event, with a quartering headwind shearing to a quartering tailwind.

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