



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Aaron McCarter
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: September 27, 2018
Person Contacted: Student Pilot Mr. Short
NTSB Accident Number: ERA18LA257

Narrative:

Telecon with student pilot.

He was under supervised solo, with his instructor observing from the airport. He was doing several takeoffs and landings and operating in the airport traffic pattern. He had just made his first solo several days before and had about 25 hours.

After the second landing, the instructor provided him feedback and told him he was doing very well. He resumed the third flight.

All engine and airplane conditions appeared normal. He took runway 5 for departure and during initial climb about 300 feet, he noticed the airspeed was rapidly falling from "sixty to fifty" and thought he had a power issue. He immediately pushed the nose over and elected to do a 180 degree turn back to the same runway that he took off from. He didn't know how much runway was in front of him. He declared an emergency. He did not observe the engine rpms falling and did not observe any other indication or problem, but he wanted to react quickly because his airspeed was falling fast.

After making the turn, he noticed he was still high and fast and had trouble putting the airplane on the ground, but once he did, he was going too fast and couldn't stop the airplane in time and he rolled off the runway and struck a fence.

[END]