



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Lynn Spencer
Aviation Investigator
Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 3/18/2020

Person Interviewed: Mr. Larry Alves, pilot receiving instruction

NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA121

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the above-named individual:

- Mr. Alves stated that they had performed an engine runup when they departed Springfield and had landed at Maury County (MRC) and had lunch.
- They were going to remain in the pattern to do several soft field landings.
- This was Mr. Alves first soft field takeoff, and he and Mr. Hoenes spent several minutes in the airplane discussing the procedure before engine startup.
- After engine start-up, they spent 12-15 more minutes discussing the procedure, and whether Mr. Hoenes would demo the procedure and just observe Mr. Alves. They agreed that Mr. Hoenes would observe.
- They did not perform an engine runup before taxiing out and did not pause at the southern end of the runway, but rather continued at full throttle once taking the runway.
- The engine sounded good, and Mr. Alves stated that he did not observe the engine RPM during the takeoff roll because his eyes were focused outside.
- About 900 ft down runway, the airplane started to lift off. He moved forward on the yolk to stay in ground effect.
- When he tried to rotate out of ground effect, the airplane settled back into ground effect and he maintained ground effect. He did not note his airspeed as his eyes were focused outside to maintain level flight in ground effect.
- He attempted again to rotate out of ground effect and once again the airplane settled back into ground effect.
- He stated that they were approaching the intersecting runway and he was thinking about the power lines on the far side of the airport. It did not appear that the airplane was accelerating, and he began to wonder about clearance from the power lines at the edge of the airport property, which were at eye level.



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- He said to Mr. Hoenes, "It's still not climbing." It did not seem to him that Mr. Hoenes had a clear correction to the problem, and he made an assessment as to whether he had enough lift to clear the lines.
- He stated, "I am staying on the airfield," and turned left to stay on the airport.
- The airplane lost lift and descended into the ground.
- He stated that neither of them understood why the airplane was not climbing out as they expected.
- He added that it had rained in the previous 48 hours.



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Date: 3/9/2020, 1:47 pm EDT
Person Interviewed: Mr. Brennan Hoenes, CFI
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA121

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the above-named individual:

- Mr. Hoenes stated that he was flying with a rotorcraft pilot who had about 10 hours of fixed wing experience, and that they flew from Springfield (M91) to Maury County Airport (MRC) to have lunch and practice soft field takeoffs and landings.
- He stated that they had performed a full engine runup prior to departing M91 and that he had noted no anomalies with the airplane or engine.
- He stated that the takeoff seemed normal, and his student was holding the nose off the ground as appropriate for a soft-field takeoff.
- He observed the student's hand on the throttle which was fully forward during the takeoff.
- The airplane lifted off into ground effect at what seemed like an appropriate speed to him.
- He estimated that the airplane was flying at 25-30 ft agl in ground effect when the student attempted to raise the airplane's nose to fly out of ground effect.
- The airplane did not want to climb and settled back into ground effect. The airplane did not seem to be "making power" as it should have been.
- They flew more in ground effect and as his student once again attempted to fly out of ground effect. He told his student, "slight left bank" so that they would avoid the power lines at the departure end of the runway.
- He stated that the student banked more steeply than he anticipated, and it was at that time that he joined the student on the controls to lessen the bank; however, the airplane did not seem to have lift and descended to the ground.
- He stated that the airplane impacted the ground in a wings level, somewhat nose low attitude.



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- After the incident, he looked at the grass, and noted that although the rain had been several days earlier, the condition of the turf was relatively lumpy, the underlying ground was wet, and the grass was somewhat long.
- He stated that he plans to share his lessons learned with the other instructors at his flight school so that others can learn from this: "Have more runway than you think you need. Don't just have 2 times what you think you need. Have a lot more given that we are involved in training."

This record was e-mailed to Mr. Hoenes for review on March 9, 2020. Mr. Hoenes responded at 11:55 EDT, March 12, 2020, and stated, "the record of conversation looks great."