



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator, IIC
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: March 16, 2021
Correspondence from: Stephen Tucker, FAA Charlotte FSDO
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21LA073 – Marion, North Carolina

Mr. Tucker provided the following inspector statement via email (excerpt in [blue](#)).

ON DECEMBER 13, 2020, N138CT ATTEMPTED TO DEPART SHIPLET FIELD (9A9) IN MARION, NC. A PREFLIGHT BRIEFING AND INSPECTION WERE COMPLETED AND THE AIRCRAFT WAS TAXIED TO THE ACTIVE RUNWAY FOR DEPARTURE. NO ANOMALIES OR ISSUES WERE NOTED AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE CHECKLISTS. THE PILOT LINED UP ON RUNWAY 10 AND APPLIED FULL POWER. ALL GAUGES WERE VERIFIED NORMAL AND "AIRSPEED ALIVE" WAS CALLED OUT. A SOFT FIELD TAKE-OFF TECHNIQUE WAS USED BY HOLDING NOSE BACK PRESSURE FOR DEPARTURE OFF THE GRASS STRIP. THE PILOT STATED THAT AT ABOUT 46 KTS, THE PLANE STARTED TO LIFT OFF THE GROUND AND SIMULTANEOUSLY YAWED TO THE RIGHT AND THEN CAME BACK TO THE GROUND. LEFT RUDDER WAS APPLIED BUT THE AIRCRAFT DID NOT RESPOND. AT THAT POINT THE PILOT REDUCED POWER AND ATTEMPTED TO LAND STRAIGHT AHEAD. WHEN POWER WAS REDUCED, THE AIRCRAFT YAWED TO THE RIGHT AND DEPARTED THE GRASS STRIP INTO A DEEPER FIELD. THE NOSE GEAR GOT CAUGHT IN A TRENCH WHICH COLLAPSED IT AND CAUSED THE AIRCRAFT TO FLIP OVER ON ITS BACK. THE AIRCRAFT WAS EVACUATED WITH ONLY MINOR INJURIES TO THE PILOT AND PASSENGER. NTSB REVIEW OF THE WRECKAGE INDICATED NO ANOMILIES IN THE RUDDER SYSTEM.