



Doe Mountain Aviation Services, LLC

611 Airport Rd.

Mountain City, TN 37683

On April 7th, 2022 an experimental Orion Lightning 2 departed Runway #24 at 1:19 PM with clear skies and winds 230 at 4, barometric pressure at the time was 29.78 and 12 degrees centigrade. The short flight ended up with a forced landing 750' from the departure end of Runway #24 straddling Vaught Creek. Aircraft was intact with no environmental impact.

I witnessed the pilot conducting a thorough preflight inspection with four corners and fuel sump after topping off the tanks with 12.1 gallons of 100LL for a flight planned from Johnson County Airport (6a4) to Mercer County Airport (BKW) for his transponder/ADS-B certification. While I was walking back to the FBO I heard the engine start normally and after a warm up period the pilot announced and back taxied for departure on Runway #24.

After another period of time that would be normal for a run up check, the pilot departed the runway in a normal fashion and climbed to approximately 50' when I heard the power setting drop back to idle and my immediate thought was that he aborted the take off for some reason because the nose came down abruptly with half of the runway available and would be an easy roll out judging from his height and speed. Just before the aircraft touched down at approximately 10' off the runway surface the engine came back up to full power and the aircraft started to climb again reaching an altitude of about 50' when again engine power was reduced back to idle and by this time there was not much runway left and I knew something was terribly wrong when I heard the engine come back to life for a brief (2 seconds) and go silent about the same time that it became out of view. I heard the sounds of impact and called Emergency Management Services, the call time recorded was 1:21 PM.

Dave Garriss

Manager

Johnson County Airport (6a4)