

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety

Washington, DC 20594



ERA23FA3212

WRECKAGE EXAMINATION SUMMARY

August 3, 2023

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A. ACCIDENT

Location: McAlpin, FL
Date: August 3, 2023
Time: 0930 EDT
<Enter HHMM coordinated universal time (UTC)>
Airplane: Kolb Firestart

B. WRECKAGE EXAMINATION SUMMARY

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C. SUMMARY

On August 3, 2023, at 0930 eastern daylight time, an unregistered Kolb Firestar, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near McAlpin, Florida. The pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 personal flight.

According to a witness, he was standing near his hangar, which was located along the midfield point of runway 18 at Little River Airport (FL10), McAlpin, Florida. About 0930, he watched as the accident pilot taxied by his hangar and to the end of runway 18 to complete an engine runup and preflight check. He then watched as the pilot started his takeoff roll. As the airplane passed his hangar, he could no longer see the airplane as the hangar was blocking his view. He heard what he thought was the pilot aborting the takeoff due to a decrease in the engine noise, as if the power was reduced to idle. He then went inside his house for a few minutes before deciding to drive down the runway and see if the pilot needed any help. He drove down to the end of runway 18 but did not see the pilot or the airplane.

Later in the evening, around 1800, he heard from other neighbors that the pilot and airplane were missing. He drove down the runway again to look for the airplane but did not see anything. Around 2000, he walked down the runway again and look into the tree line. After walking into the woods, he located the airplane suspended about 50ft above him in the treetops.

D. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

1.0 Accident Site

The accident site was located in a wooded area, about 50 feet in the woods from the midfield point of runway 18. The airplane was inverted and hanging from the left main landing gear.

2.0 Airframe Examination

The airplane was lowered to the ground and 4 ft of the left outer wing and the rudder were damaged by tree limbs. The right wing's fabric was torn. The engine and cabin section were unremarkable. The propeller was unremarkable. The 4-point seat belt was unhinged. Flight control continuity was established to all flight controls.

3.0 Engine Examination

the engine was unremarkable and started immediately when the key was turned. The engine ran smoothly and ran up to high rpm without any hesitation or other problems noted.

Submitted by:

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Air Safety Investigator