

Inspector Statement

N686JA

03/20/2024

On 03/20/2024 at 10:20 AM EST received a call from First Landings Aviation stating that N686JA a PA28 had struck an object while taxiing on taxiway Alpha at X04. Arrived on scene at 12:30 EST on 03/20/2024 and was informed that N686JA was conducting a 14 C.F.R. 61 solo cross-country flight when at the completion of the flight the Solo student pilot struck a pedestrian while taxiing on taxi way Alpha just north of A6 at X04. The pedestrian was edging the grass next to the taxiway and had his back to the aircraft when he was struck. On arrival the aircraft was sitting on taxiway Alpha intersection A6 and showed damage to the right wing outboard leading edge. The leading edge was crushed in approximately 14 inches and the damage extended from the wing tip to approximately 32 inches inboard on the right-wing leading edge. This was the only damage to the aircraft and all damage was consistent with the aircraft striking a person while taxiing. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical issues with the aircraft prior to the collision. Inspected the aircraft braking and steering system with no issues being noted. Also, there were no flat spots on either main landing gear tire or skid marks on the taxiway indicating that the pilot made any attempt to stop prior to the collision with the pedestrian. The operator downloaded the data from the Garmin G3X and showed that the student was taxiing at an excessive rate of speed before impact. The G3X data showed that the aircraft was traveling at a ground speed of 14.9 knots prior to impact. The pedestrian was taken to the hospital by ambulance and it was reported that he had several fractured vertebrae in his neck, back and suspected broken bones. Consulted the NTSB investigator on call and he classified this as an accident due to the injuries to the pedestrian. The student pilot provided a written statement that stated that the pedestrian "walked into the wing of the airplane". Video of the accident clearly shows that the pedestrian was on grass at the edge of taxiway, with his back to the aircraft when the aircraft struck him from behind.

**James Michael
Holmes**

Digitally signed by James
Michael Holmes

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James M. Holmes
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Orlando FSDO