

Investigator Name: Brian C. Rayner
Title: Senior Air Safety Investigator
Division: AS-ERA

Date: [04/11/2024]

Subject: ERA24LA175 East Amherst, NY - Telephone Call Summary

Contact: Randy Steele - FAA Inspector

Mr. Steele responded to the accident site from his office in Rochester, NY. He described the scene and the evidence and then later provided a detailed summary of his observations and his witness and pilot interviews.

Following his review of the accident site and his conversations with the witness and the pilot, he stated the turf runway at the airport was very soft. The pilot said he "discussed" the condition of the runway prior to departure but did not walk the runway and survey its condition.

Tire tracks, ground signatures and turf embedded in the tail of the airplane revealed that during the takeoff roll the pilot "over-rotated," dragged the tail on the ground, lost directional control, and when the nose wheel touched down, the airplane was aligned for a runway excursion off the right side of the runway.

Ground tracks clearly showed where the nose wheel touched down at a point just prior to the tracks' continuation off the right side of the runway. The center wheel track then displayed a deeper trough and symmetrical slash marks in the muddy surface consistent with the dimensions of the propeller. The slash marks were just ahead of the point where the airplane nosed over and came to rest inverted with substantial damage to the vertical stabilizer.

The pilot reported to Mr. Steele that there were no mechanical deficiencies with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The pilot did not submit an NTSB Form 6120.1 Pilot/Operator Accident Report Form, but Mr. Steele was able to gather from him the information necessary to complete the investigation.