



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Adam Gerhardt
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General Aviation Accident Investigation Division, AS-20

Date: 6/8/2016
Person Contacted: David Thatcher (Pilot in Command)
NTSB Accident Number: GAA16CA288

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the pilot in command.

The following is a summary:

- The pilot stated that there were 4 people on board, and no one was injured.
- The accident occurred at a grass airstrip, surrounded by pine trees.
- He stated that he performed a soft/ short field takeoff, and after rotation he lowered the nose to get to Vx. During the climb, the airspeed started to deteriorate.
- The pilot stated that he realized he was not going to clear the trees ahead; so he pushed the nose forward and performed a forced hard landing in the runway landing distance remaining.
- The airplane stopped on the runway.
- The airplane never climbed above the tree tops.
- He stated that the engine run-up was normal.
- The rotation occurred about half way down the runway and flaps were set to 10 degrees.
- He stated the grass was moist/ wet due to the rain the day before. There was also grass and mud on the airplane.
- The pilot did not report any mechanical malfunction or failure with the airplane.