

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Hicks Michael](#)
Subject: GAA 16LA032 - N467SD Hemet Ca.
Date: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 11:17:52 AM

Good Morning,

If you are interested, the following are the statements that I included in 8020-23 form for this accident:

During take-off from runway 28 at the Hemet, CA Airport (HMT), the canopy popped open and began "flopping" up and down due to not being placed in lock position prior to take-off. With the canopy moving up and down, the pilot stated that his forward visibility was reduced and that he over corrected while trying to land. The pilot states that when he attempted to land from approximately 40-60 feet of altitude, the aircraft hit the ground resulting in a hard landing. The aircraft sustained major damage.

The pilot, Mr. Smith, had just completed a bi-annual flight review in Hemet (HMT) and was departing to his home airport Redlands, CA (REI) when this accident occurred. Speaking with the CFI, Ed Matthews certificate number [REDACTED], who had given the flight review to Mr. Smith, he stated that Mr. Smith had perform very well during the flight review. The pilot, Mr. Smith, stated that his canopy had been open to allow fresh and cool air into the flight deck while he was maneuvering on the ground to the take-off position and couldn't recall if he had locked the canopy prior to beginning the take-off roll. When asked if he utilized a checklist that had the canopy as one of the checklist items, the pilot stated that he used a mental checklist. With that statement, it is believed that Mr. Smith did not confirm the canopy position before attempting take-off. With the distraction from the canopy being open and bouncing up and down during the take-off, Mr. Smith seems to have overreacted and therefore overcorrected while attempting to land after realizing that the canopy wasn't lock once airborne. Mr. Smith has been counseled about the importance of proper paper checklist usage.

Any questions or if you need anything from me, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Anthony "Woody" Wood

Aviation Safety Inspector, Operations

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Take care and keep safe those who serve and those who have served