

Statement from Dennis Funnemark of N251CW accident

On June 18, 2018 Chris Ward, owner of N251CW, and I, Dennis Funnemark, planned a cross country flight departing from Williston, FL (X60) to south Florida. The weather was clear with light winds at X60. Start and taxi to runway 05 were normal. Engine runup was normal and we taxied into position for takeoff at approximately 0915.

Mr. Ward was in the left seat and at the controls. I was in the right seat acting as the checkout pilot as required by the insurance company. Before takeoff on this flight I had advised Mr. Ward to begin his rotation to takeoff attitude a few knots before the normal takeoff speed of approximately 65 knots and then let the airplane lift off smoothly when it was ready to fly. On previous flights he tended to delay rotation until past takeoff speed, resulting in extended takeoff rolls.

Initial takeoff roll after brake release was normal with the airplane tracking straight down the runway. As we approached takeoff speed he began the rotation, but overshot with the nose a few degrees too high. The airplane lifted off in the ground effect and started to drift to the left toward the edge of the runway. At this point things started to happen very fast. We hit the grass and I started to feel the airplane hitting the prop, wing tip, and landing gear. We had chopped the power shortly after leaving the runway. We slid to a stop, cut off the fuel and master switch, and exited the airplane. Neither one of sustained even a slight injury, cuts, or bruising. There was no fire. Emergency personnel arrived immediately and we began normal recovery procedures after an incident.

Dennis Funnemark