

Inspector Statement

Joseph M. Arvay
ASI / BHM FSDO / SO-09
September 2, 2017

Subject: Aircraft accident N168BD at private grass strip in Elba, AL.

On 9/2/2017 at approximately 0900 hrs local, a pilot and his passenger departed a private grass airstrip in Elba, AL. The aircraft climbed to 10 feet off the ground when the pilot noticed the aircraft wasn't climbing and was approaching the tree at the end of his grass strip. The pilot decided to immediately put the aircraft on the ground and put the throttle to idle. The aircraft impacted the ground, breaking the main gear off, the left wing struck the ground causing it to twist after damaging the under wing support, both propeller blades struck the ground, and the lower engine mounts were broken off. The aircraft slid to a stop with the pilot and passenger receiving minor injuries. The two individuals went to the hospital and were treated and released. The passenger was a minor and was not interviewed.

This inspector has interviewed both the pilot and his nephew Casey Burrill via telephone. The nephew holds an ATP and is a Flight Instructor. Casey is also a military Flight Instructor who has more experience in this aircraft than the pilot involved. It appears that the pilot (Tommy Burrill) may have been near his max usable weight and didn't react to the situation at hand correctly. He provided a written statement on 9/8/2017 to this office regarding losing power but contacted the office on 9/19/2017 to add to his statement. The pilot admitted that the engine wasn't losing power but he overreacted to the situation and put the aircraft back on the ground too quickly. The aircraft was not gaining altitude because he didn't give the input to the elevators at a fast enough rate to execute a proper take off in that particular aircraft.

Engine: Continental C85-12F, Lower engine mounts broken, no other visible damage.

Propeller: Unknown make model. 1 Blade bent

Spinner: Spinner no damage.

Fuel: No visible damage to fuel tank. certificated mechanic, Gary R. Wilson, # [REDACTED] at Flight Path Aviation Services Inc. in Brooksville, FL.

Fuselage: Damage at lower wing bracing points, left and right. Damage to engine firewall and lower fuselage behind engine.

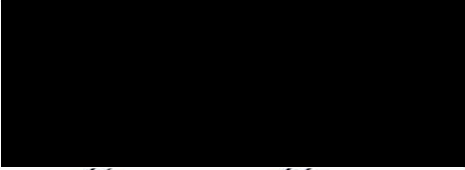
Wings: The wings were still attached to the aircraft with a forward twist in the left wing spar.

Horizontal Stabilizer: No visible damage.

Vertical Stabilizer: Vertical stabilizer no damage. Rudder continuity was confirmed at the rudder pedals.

Landing Gear: Left and right main gear were bent and facing outward but still attached to the aircraft.

Pilot: The pilot ([REDACTED]) holds a private pilot rating along with airplane single engine land. The pilot had a total of approximately 1200 hours. This particular aircraft he had 71 hours total and 11 hours in the last 90 days.


Joseph M. Arvay
ASI