



## NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Kate Benhoff**  
**Air Safety Investigator**  
**General Aviation Accident Investigation Division, AS-20**

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**Date: November 15, 2018**  
**Person Contacted: Reiner Schlitt (Pilot)**  
**NTSB Accident Number: GAA19CA060**

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The following is a summary of a telephone conversation with the above mentioned:

The pilot reported that, during takeoff on runway 18, he added full power at 2,700 RPM. He added that it seemed to be a slow start, but about midfield the airplane reached 80 knots and he rotated. He kept the airplane in ground effect to build airspeed and lean the mixture, but the airplane was not performing as expected and was not climbing. He retracted the landing gear and the stall warning horn began chirping. He kept the airplane's pitch attitude "on the edge" and noticed that it would not clear a tree. He pulled back on the yoke and the left wing tip clipped a tree. He added that the Federal Aviation Administration inspectors measured the tree about 0.2 miles from the end of the runway and he estimated that the tree was about 35-40 ft tall.

The pilot reported that he remembered looking at the engine instruments and saw that it was steady power with the exhaust gas temperatures.

The pilot reported that there were no preimpact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

The following is a summary of the follow-up telephone conversation on November 27, 2018:

The pilot reported that he did not use flaps during takeoff. He added that the "motor sounded good" and during the climb, he knew he was in a positive climb rate, just not sure what value.