



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Eleazar Nepomuceno
Air Safety Investigator
General Aviation Accident Division

Date: 5/16/2019
Person Contacted: Ryan Steffey
NTSB Accident Number: GAA19CA266

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by the pilot in a telephone conversation on this date:

Before the flight, the pilot received and installed new electronics, a radio and new headset. Prior to departure on runway 24 and while adjusting radios, he forgot to latch the cockpit (usually checks prior to full engine start-up) and did not complete his pre-departure checklist because he was adjusting the radio and headset.

The airplane rotated about 90 mph and airplane started to lift off. He then retracted the wheels up, about 105 mph, and the canopy shimmied open about 2 ft aft. He immediately reached for canopy with his left hand while he had his right hand on the control stick. As he attempted to close the canopy with the airplane a couple of feet above the runway, he applied slight forward pressure to the control stick and the nose pitch down. Subsequently, the nose gear struck the runway, the airplane veered right, about 105 mph, the main gear collapsed, and the airplane slid down the runway. After the airplane came to rest, the pilot shut down the engine and the airplane then notified the tower that he was ok and exited the airplane without any injuries.

The pilot reported that there were no pre-impact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airframe or engine that would have precluded normal operation.