



Eleazar Nepomuceno
Aviation Accident Investigator
Aviation Safety - Western Pacific Region

Date: August 23, 2023

Subject: WPR23LA311, phone interview

Contact: Shane Balsam, pilot

The pilot was relocating his airplane to a hangar on his ranch. The pilot reported that during takeoff to the west with a headwind, the airplane did not climb as he expected. About 100 ft above the ground, the pilot made a left turn to the east to perform a precautionary landing on unimproved terrain. Subsequently, the airplane impacted terrain nose down and the fuselage and left wing sustained substantial damage. The pilot reported that there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures to the airplane or engine that would have precluded normal operation.

Follow-up: the pilot did not provide a the National Transportation Safety Board Pilot/Operator Aircraft Accident/Incident Report Form 6120.1.