

Eric M. Gutierrez
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: September 22, 2025

Subject: WPR25LA287, Memorandum for Record

Contact: [REDACTED] Owner/ Pilot

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by [REDACTED] in a telephone conversation.

When the pilot/owner purchased the Kolb Firefly (N139SB), he was told that it was an ultralight and that he did not require a pilot certificate to operate/fly it. During the first flight at the Illinois Valley Airport (3S4), Cave Junction, Oregon, the departure, crosswind, and downwind legs were uneventful. During the approach to land on runway 36, the airplane encountered turbulence, and the ultralight rolled about 20°-30°, which then caused the ultralight to land hard and crash on the runway. The airplane veered to the right, exited the right side of the runway and came to rest upright. He sustained a broken back and was transported to the hospital.

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