

Grant Mills
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: 10/07/2025

Subject: WPR26LA009 Memorandum for Record

Contact: [REDACTED], Pilot

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

The pilot rented an airplane at Watsonville Municipal Airport in Watsonville, California, for a personal flight to San Luis Obispo, California. He pre-flighted the airplane and pulled it out of the hangar. When he was taxiing for run-up to runway 20, he began to divert his attention to the GPS and input flight information. As he was bringing his hand back from the GPS, his elbow hit the throttle forward. The airplane lunged forward towards the corner of a hangar. The pilot reported that he hit the brakes, but it was too late, and he impacted the corner of the hangar.

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