



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Weippe, Idaho	Accident Number:	GAA18CA301
Date & Time:	May 27, 2018, 09:30 Local	Registration:	N103GE
Aircraft:	ELDRIDGE GEORGE SKYSTAR KITFOX SER 7	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Collision during takeoff/land	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot reported that, during the approach, the airplane "caught a sudden down draft," and the tailwheel struck the top of a 5-ft-tall fence. Subsequently, the airplane nosed over.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the left wing and empennage.

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

The automated weather observation system located about 20 nautical miles from the accident site reported that, about the time of the accident, the wind was from 190° at 3 knots. The pilot reported that the sky condition was clear, visibility unlimited, temperature 45°F, and wind was from 270° between 8 and 10 knots. The pilot landed to the west.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's failure to maintain a proper approach altitude, which resulted in a collision with a fence.

Findings

Aircraft	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained
Personnel issues	Aircraft control - Pilot
Environmental issues	Fence/fence post - Effect on operation
Environmental issues	Downdraft - Effect on operation

Factual Information

History of Flight

Approach	Other weather encounter
Landing	Miscellaneous/other
Landing	Collision during takeoff/land (Defining event)
Landing	Nose over/nose down

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	67,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	4-point
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	February 24, 2017
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	April 22, 2017
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 1920 hours (Total, all aircraft), 206 hours (Total, this make and model), 1920 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 19 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	ELDRIDGE GEORGE	Registration:	N103GE
Model/Series:	SKYSTAR KITFOX SER 7 NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2003	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	S60111-066
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 24, 2017 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1550 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	580 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Rotax
ELT:	C91 installed, not activated	Engine Model/Series:	912ULS
Registered Owner:		Rated Power:	100 Horsepower
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual (VMC)	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KP69,1480 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	20 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	15:52 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	128°
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	3 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	None / None
Wind Direction:	190°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	N/A / N/A
Altimeter Setting:	30.13 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	13°C / 11°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Weippe, ID	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	VFR
Destination:	Weippe, ID	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	08:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	46.345832,-115.887779(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Swenson, Eric
Additional Participating Persons:	Brent Morrow; FAA; Spokane, WA
Original Publish Date:	November 5, 2018
Note:	This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=97337

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