

0921 STORCH Ultra-light VEHICLE FLIGHT OCCURRENCE INVESTIGATION REPORT

Executive Summary

In the afternoon of September 21, 2011, one STORCH ultra-light vehicle crashed at a litchi orchard at Xianzhuang Village, Fenyuan Township, Changhua County with one operator on board.

The aircraft took off around the local time at 1620 from an activity field at Sijhou Township, Changhua County, with first practicing a touch & go, and circling above the activity field, then it flew towards north east to Hou-yu-che village, Changnan Road Section 2, Fenyuan Township, Changhua County and lingered over there. The operator's friend witnessed at 1715 that the aircraft was circling above an orchard with about 6 meters higher than the obstacle, then it suddenly slowed down and inclined to crash at a litchi orchard nearby. The aircraft collided with the ground, and burst into fire. The operator sustained serious burned injuries and died at the hospital.

Analysis and Conclusions

Findings from the investigation showed that the aircraft might crash due to stall while it was circling above the occurrence site, then the impact with the tree and ground led to fuel leak and then the fuel contacted the engine's hot section to burn the aircraft out.

Safety Recommendations

To Civil Aeronautics Administration

Reinforce inspections to those unauthorized ultra-light activities and provide related information for local governments and police agents to outlaw it.

To Ministry of the Interior

Supervise local governments to outlaw the unauthorized ultra-light vehicle activity field.