

**LIMITED ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION REPORT**

<b>Reference Number</b>	CA18/2/3/10015						
<b>Classification</b>	Accident	<b>Date</b>	19 June 2021	<b>Time</b>	1445Z		
<b>Type of Operation</b>	Private (Part 94)						
<b>Location</b>							
<b>Place of Departure</b>	Stellenbosch Aerodrome (FASH)		<b>Place of Intended Landing</b>	Morning Star Aerodrome			
<b>Place of Accident</b>	On the grass to the left of Runway 19 at Stellenbosch Aerodrome						
<b>GPS Co-ordinates</b>	Latitude	33°58'44.15" S	Longitude	018°49'18.28" E	Elevation	295 feet	
<b>Aircraft Information</b>							
Registration	ZU-RBM						
Make / Model	Auto-Gyro Cavalon (Serial No. Y00196)						
Damage to Aircraft	Substantial		Total Aircraft Hours	188.7			
<b>Pilot-in-command</b>							
Licence Type	National Pilot Licence	Gender	Male	Age 65			
Licence Valid	Yes						
Total Hours on Type	141.3		Total Flying Hours	411.8			
<b>People On-board</b>	1 + 0	Injuries	0	Fatalities	0	Other (On Ground)	0
<b>What Happened</b>							
<p>On Saturday afternoon, 19 June 2021, a pilot flying solo on-board a Cavalon gyrocopter with registration ZU-RBM took off from Morning Star Aerodrome located next to the N7 highway in Cape Town to Stellenbosch Aerodrome (FASH) where he landed the aircraft and spent some time on the ground.</p> <p>At 1445Z, the pilot lined up on Runway 19 at FASH for his return flight to Morning Star Aerodrome. The pilot stated that he pre-rotated the main rotors to approximately 200 revolutions per minute (rpm) while bringing the control stick back.</p> <p>Before the control stick was fully back, he released the brakes, resulting in the gyrocopter accelerating too fast and the nose wheel becoming unstable. The gyrocopter rolled over to the left before skidding. It came to a halt on the grass surface next to the runway.</p> <p>The accident was captured on video using a cellular phone. In the footage, the gyrocopter is seen accelerating at a substantial speed, then the nose pitches to a high nose-up attitude; thereafter, the</p>							

lower tail plane strikes the ground before the gyrocopter rolls to the left and the main rotor blades impact the grass surface next to the runway.

The pilot was not injured during the accident sequence, but the gyrocopter was substantially damaged.



**Figure 1:** The gyrocopter as it came to rest to the left of Runway 19.

Probable cause

Loss of control during take-off following the release of brakes prematurely prior to application of a full back pressure on the control stick.

**Safety Action/s**

None.

**Safety Message and/or Safety Recommendation/s**

None.

**Purpose of the Investigation**

*In terms of Part 12.03.1 of the Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) 2011, this report was compiled in the interest of the promotion of aviation safety and the reduction of the risk of aviation accidents or incidents and **not to apportion blame or liability.***

**About this Report**

*Decisions regarding whether to investigate, and the scope of an investigation are based on many factors, including the level of safety benefit likely to be obtained from an investigation. For this occurrence, no investigation has been conducted, and the Accident and Incident Investigations Division (AIID) has relied on the information submitted by the affected person/s and organisation/s to compile this brief report. The report has been compiled using information supplied in the initial notification, as well as follow-up information to bring awareness of potential safety issues to the industry in respect of this occurrence, as well as possible safety action/s that the industry might want to consider in preventing a recurrence of a similar accident.*

*This report provides an opportunity to share safety message/s in the absence of an investigation.*

*All times given in this report are Co-ordinated Universal Time (UTC) and will be denoted by (Z). South African Standard Time is UTC plus 2 hours.*

**Disclaimer**

*This report is produced without prejudice to the rights of AIID, which are reserved.*

**This report is issued by:  
Accident and Incident Investigations Division  
South African Civil Aviation Authority  
Republic of South Africa**