

**Aviation Safety Investigation Report
198800134**

Blanik L13

28 September 1988

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NOTE: All air safety occurrences reported to the ATSB are categorised and recorded. For a detailed explanation on Category definitions please refer to the ATSB website at www.atsb.gov.au.

Occurrence Number: 198800134

Occurrence Type: Accident

Location: Northam Airfield WA

Date: 28 September 1988

Time: 910

Highest Injury Level: Nil

Injuries:

	Fatal	Serious	Minor	None
Crew	0	0	1	1
Ground	0	0	0	-
Passenger	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1

Aircraft Details: Blanik L13

Registration: VH-GAQ

Serial Number: N/K

Operation Type: Aerial Work

Damage Level: Substantial

Departure Point: Northam Airfield WA

Departure Time: 0910

Destination: Northam Airfield WA

Approved for Release: March 17th 1989

Circumstances:

The aircraft was attempting a take off from Northam Airfield at the time of the accident. The student pilot was flying the aircraft and another student was acting as wingtip walker. The wingtip walker inadvertently held the left wing up against aileron control input from the pilot. When the wingtip walker released the wing, the aircraft rolled rapidly to the left. The wingtip, which was fitted with a combination metal tie-down point and skid, collided with the ground, the skid dug in and the aircraft ground looped. This accident was not the subject of an on-site investigation.

Significant Factors:

The following factors were considered relevant to the development of the accident

1. The student pilot and the wing walker were both inexperienced and they failed to recognise the cross control situation which had developed.
2. The student pilot inadvertently lost control of the aircraft during take-off.
3. The wingtip skid had a design fault.