

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

April 5, 2016

Personal Electronic Devices

Specialist's Factual Report By Jane Foster

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Alma, Georgia
Date: September 16, 2015
Aircraft: Vans Aircraft RV-10
Registration: N122WK
Operator: Private
NTSB Number: ERA15FA359

On September 16, 2015, about 0342 eastern daylight time (EDT), an experimental amateur-built Vans RV-10, N122WK, was destroyed when it impacted trees and terrain following an uncontrolled descent in Alma, Georgia. The pilot/owner/builder and 4 passengers were fatally injured. Night visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the local personal flight which was conducted under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91.

2. GROUP

A group was not convened.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following personal electronic devices (PEDs):

Device Manufacturer/Model:	Apple iPhone 6+
Serial Number:	Unknown
Device Manufacturer/Model:	HTC Cell Phone
Serial Number:	FA42LS902402
Device Manufacturer/Model:	Apple iPhone 5c
Serial Number:	Unknown
Device Manufacturer/Model:	LG Optimus Dynamic II
Serial Number:	501CYQX0726596

3.1. Device Description

PEDs are a category of devices comprised primarily of portable computing devices and mobile phones. Portable computing devices are typically capable of internet access, email, messaging services, and can run user-installed applications to perform specific tasks. Depending on the model, mobile phones can perform many of the same tasks as portable computing devices, plus have voice call and text messaging capabilities. PED user and system data is typically stored on non-volatile memory¹ and can be accessed through manufacturer-provided interfaces.

3.2. Data Recovery

The four PEDs sustained heavy impact damage from the accident. Figures one through four show the devices as received to the vehicle recorder laboratory.

Figure 1. Front and back of Apple iPhone 6+ as received.



¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.

Figure 2. Front and back of HTC cell phone as received.

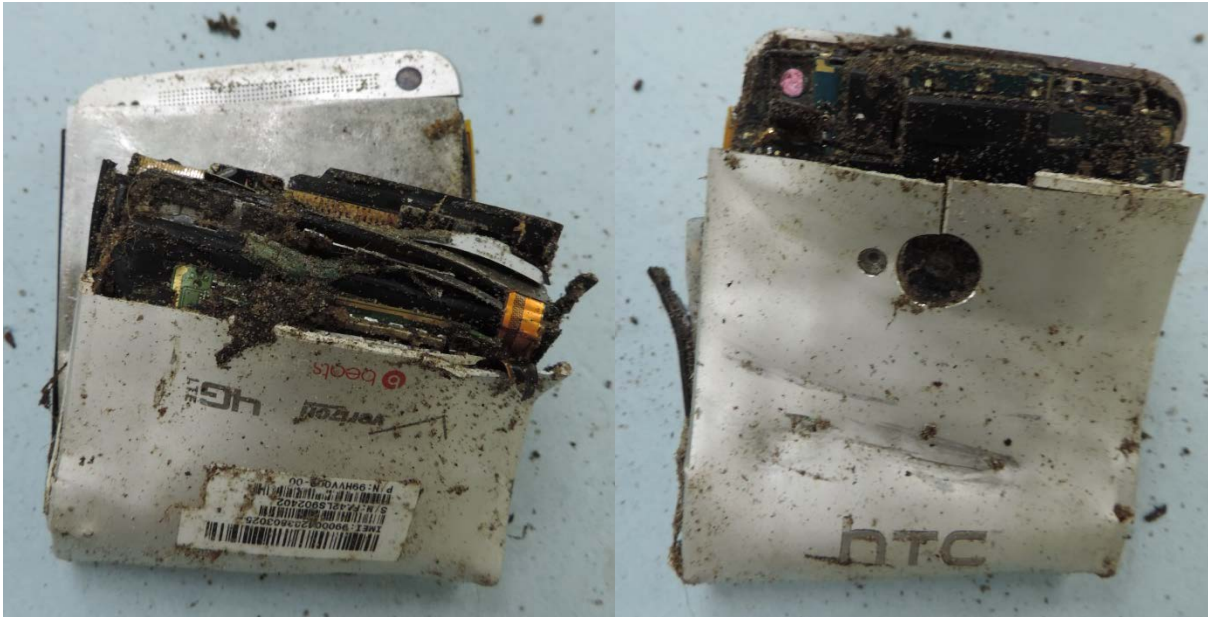


Figure 3. Front and back of iPhone 5c as received.



Figure 4. Front and back of LG Optimus Dynamic II as received.



4. DEVICE INVESTIGATIONS

4.1. Apple iPhone 6+

The main processing board for the Apple iPhone 6+ was damaged, so no data could be retrieved from the device.

4.2. HTC Cell Phone

The main processing board for the HTC cell phone was damaged. In addition, no SD cards were found in or associated with the device. No data could be retrieved from the cell phone.

4.3. Apple iPhone 5c

After further inspection, the Apple iPhone 5c main processing board was cracked, so no data could be retrieved from the device.

4.4. LG Optimus Dynamic II

An SD card containing pictures was found on the LG Optimus Dynamic II. None of the pictures contained accident related data or were taken within months of the accident date.