



Aviation Investigation Factual Report

Location:	Hudson, Colorado	Accident Number:	DEN08LA090
Date & Time:	May 17, 2008, 11:55 Local	Registration:	N21MJ
Aircraft:	DeHavilland DH112 Venom	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Defining Event:	Loss of engine power (total)	Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Air race/show		

Factual Information

On May 17, 2008, at 1155 mountain daylight time, a DeHavilland DH112 Venom, N21MJ, operated by an airline transport pilot, was destroyed when it impacted an irrigation ditch during a forced landing 1.5 miles northwest of the Platte Valley Airpark (18V), Hudson, Colorado. A postimpact fire ensued. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident. The flight was being operated under the provisions of Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 without a flight plan. The pilot was not injured. The round-robin flight departed Rocky Mountain Metropolitan Airport (BJC), Denver, Colorado, approximately 1130.

According to the pilot, he was performing a fly-over with another airplane at the Platte Valley Airpark Fly-In. The pilot stated that as he pitched up to climb the engine lost power. The pilot was able to restart the engine; however, it lost power "about five seconds" later. The pilot performed a forced landing to the west in an open alfalfa field. The airplane traveled over two irrigation ditches, and impacted a third ditch. The right main landing gear collapsed. The airplane came to rest 2,630 feet west of the initial landing point. The belly of the fuselage and cabin area was torn and fragmented. Both main landing gear crushed up into the wing, the right auxiliary fuel tank separated partially, and both wing spars were bent. The post impact fire consumed a large portion of the fuselage, engine, and cabin area.

The wreckage was recovered and relocated to a hangar in Greeley, Colorado. Examination of the engine revealed that the accessory housing, compressor, housing, and several burner cans were charred, melted, and partially consumed by fire. The driveshaft, turbine, and aft portion of the housing were continuous and unremarkable. The engine accessories, to include both fuel pumps, were charred, melted, and partially consumed by fire. Due to the fire damage, engine continuity or engine accessory functionality could not be confirmed.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport	Age:	59,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Single-engine sea; Multi-engine land; Multi-engine sea	Seat Occupied:	Single
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Glider	Restraint Used:	
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	July 1, 2007
Occupational Pilot:	Yes	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 1, 2007
Flight Time:	3907 hours (Total, all aircraft), 400 hours (Total, this make and model), 3690 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 16 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 8 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	DeHavilland	Registration:	N21MJ
Model/Series:	DH112 Venom	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	1527
Landing Gear Type:	Retractable - Tricycle	Seats:	1
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	December 1, 2007 Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	13000 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:		Engines:	1 Turbo jet
Airframe Total Time:	1962 Hrs as of last inspection	Engine Manufacturer:	Rolls-Royce
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	ghost 48 mk 1
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	4850 Lbs thrust
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:	DEN,80249 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	18 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	11:53 Local	Direction from Accident Site:	165°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Few / 8000 ft AGL	Visibility	10 miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	8 knots / 17 knots	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	10°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:	30.28 inches Hg	Temperature/Dew Point:	21°C / 3°C
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Englewood, CO (BJC)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	Englewood, CO (BJC)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	11:30 Local	Type of Airspace:	

Airport Information

Airport:	PLATTE VALLEY AIRPARK 18V	Runway Surface Type:	
Airport Elevation:	4965 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	
Runway Used:		IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:		VFR Approach/Landing:	Forced landing

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	40.117221,-104.684722

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Kaiser, Jennifer
Additional Participating Persons:	Dale Schuel; FAA Flight Standards District Office; Denver, CA
Report Date:	August 26, 2008
Last Revision Date:	
Investigation Class:	Class
Note:	
Investigation Docket:	https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=68033

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