



Aviation Investigation Final Report

Location:	Sulfer, Louisiana	Accident Number:	CEN20CA220
Date & Time:	June 8, 2020, 11:00 Local	Registration:	N44LA
Aircraft:	Vans RV8	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:	Aircraft structural failure	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

Analysis

According to the pilot, while landing his tailwheel airplane on runway 15 with gusty winds from 250°, there was a slight bounce when he touched the runway with the right tire. As the left main tire touched down, he felt the left side of the airplane "drop suddenly." As the airplane continued down the runway, it began to veer to the left. He applied full right rudder and right brake, which kept the airplane on the runway for several hundred feet before directional control could no longer be maintained. The airplane exited the runway and nosed over which resulted in substantial damage to the right elevator.

A post-accident examination revealed a fractured left landing gear inboard attach bracket.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

A loss of directional control as a result of a fractured landing gear attach bracket.

Findings

Aircraft	Main landing gear attach sec - Failure
Aircraft	Directional control - Attain/maintain not possible

Factual Information

History of Flight

Landing-landing roll	Aircraft structural failure (Defining event)
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Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport	Age:	76, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Front
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Unmanned (sUAS)	Restraint Used:	Unknown
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 1, 2019
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 7650 hours (Total, all aircraft), 9898 hours (Total, this make and model), 7178 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 48 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Vans	Registration:	N44LA
Model/Series:	RV8	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:	2007	Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental (Special)	Serial Number:	82421
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	June 30, 2019 Condition	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1800 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	83 Hrs	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	634 Hrs at time of accident	Engine Manufacturer:	Aero Sport Power
ELT:	Not installed	Engine Model/Series:	O360-A1A
Registered Owner:	On file	Rated Power:	180 Horsepower
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:		Distance from Accident Site:	
Observation Time:		Direction from Accident Site:	
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Visibility	
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility (RVR):	
Wind Speed/Gusts:	9 knots /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:	250°	Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Leesville, LA (L39)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	Unknown
Destination:	Sulfer, LA (UXL)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:		Type of Airspace:	Unknown

Airport Information

Airport:	Southland Field UXL	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Airport Elevation:	10 ft msl	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Used:	15	IFR Approach:	None
Runway Length/Width:	5001 ft / 75 ft	VFR Approach/Landing:	Full stop

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	30.133888,-93.377777(est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Williams, David

Additional Participating Persons:

Original Publish Date: February 2, 2021

Last Revision Date:

Investigation Class: [Class 4](#)

Note: This accident report documents the factual circumstances of this accident as described to the NTSB.

Investigation Docket: <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=101408>

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