



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Reno, NV	Accident Number:	WPR22FA350
Date & Time:	September 18, 2022, 15:44 Local	Registration:	N129MM
Aircraft:	AEROVODOCHODY L-29 DELFIN	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Air race/show		

On September 18, 2022, about 1544 Pacific daylight time, a Aerovodochody L29-Delphin, N129MM, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Reno, Nevada. The pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 Air Race flight.

The accident airplane, operated as Race 29, was on lap 3 of 6. Witnesses reported that the accident airplane began a climb as it neared outer pylon no. 4 and appeared to tighten its left turn back toward the inner portion of the racecourse. At the peak of the climb, the airplane entered an approximate 90° right bank and started a descent before it rolled left to an approximate 90° bank. The airplane continued to descend in a steep left bank, nose-low attitude until it impacted terrain just beyond outer pylon no. 5.

A photograph (Figure 1) captured by a witness just prior to impact showed that all primary flight controls remained attached to the airframe at the time of the accident.



Figure 1: Photo provided by a witness of the accident airplane just prior to impact with terrain.

Examination of the accident site (Figure 2) revealed that the airplane impacted terrain on a magnetic heading of about 229°. The first identified point of contact (FIPC) with terrain was a swath of freshly disturbed dirt, consistent with a left-wing impact. The swath of disturbed dirt continued for about 180 ft to a large burn area, which contained various fragments of wreckage. The 2,200 ft long debris path continued along a magnetic heading of about 242° degrees and contained fragments of wreckage along with portions of both wings, empennage, and engine.

The wreckage was recovered to a secure location for further examination.

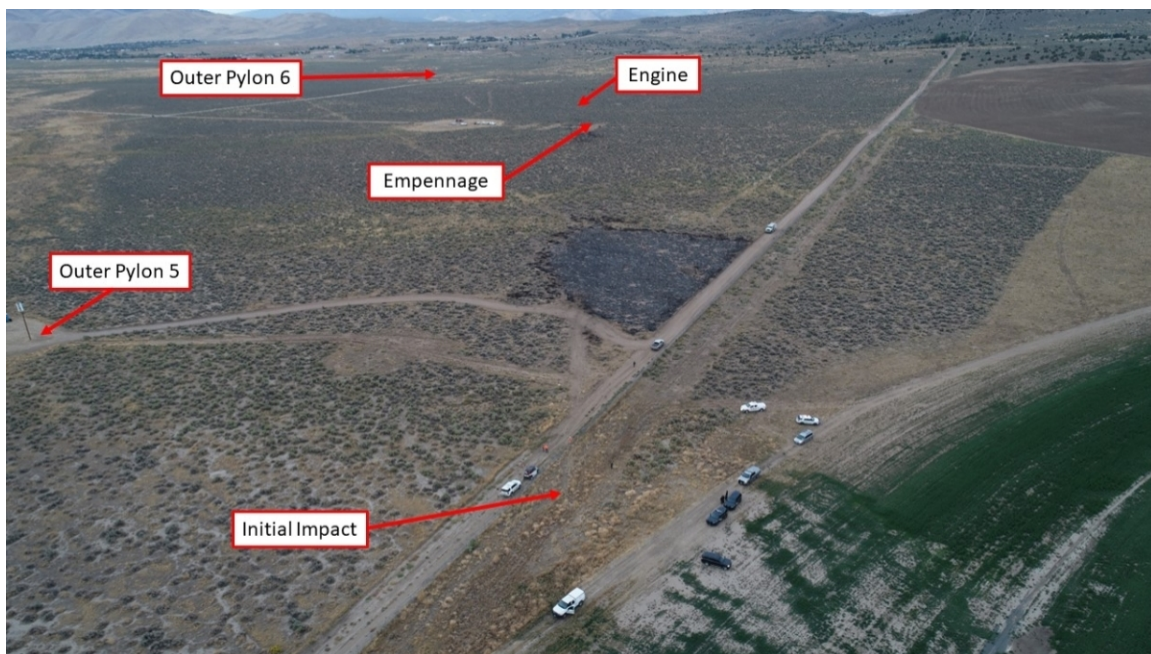


Figure 2: Aerial view of the accident site provided by Nevada State Patrol, with annotations of pylon and wreckage locations.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	AEROVODOCHODY	Registration:	N129MM
Model/Series:	L-29 DELFIN	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Certificate of authorization or waiver (COA)
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KRTS,5053 ft msl	Observation Time:	03:55 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	2 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	12°C /-5°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Scattered / 7500 ft AGL	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / , 40°
Lowest Ceiling:	Broken / 12000 ft AGL	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.74 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	
Departure Point:		Destination:	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	On-ground
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	39.708298,-119.88266

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Cawthra, Joshua
Additional Participating Persons:	Ron Green; Federal Aviation Administration; Reno, NV
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	