



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Las Vegas, NM	Accident Number:	WPR23LA304
Date & Time:	August 6, 2023, 13:00 Local	Registration:	N25WL
Aircraft:	VAN GROUW R / CANTRELL L WHITE LIGHTNING	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On August 6, 2023, about 1300 mountain standard time, an experimental amateur-built White Lightning, N25WL, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near New Mexico. The pilot was not injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

According to the pilot, he was flying from Boulder, Colorado, to his home airport of Ohkay Owingeh (E14) Espanola, New Mexico. Due to weather, he diverted and flew toward Las Vegas Municipal Airport (LVS), Las Vegas, New Mexico, and continue to E14. He said that the flight from Boulder to LVS was uneventful. As he passed LVS, he noted that the airspeed was decaying, and the airplane was not maintaining altitude. He made a turn back toward LVS and initiated a forced landing on a highway. During the landing roll, the left wing impacted a fence and the airplane spun to a stop in a field.

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

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	VAN GROUW R / CANTRELL L	Registration:	N25WL
Model/Series:	WHITE LIGHTNING	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSAF,6287 ft msl	Observation Time:	12:53 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	37 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	32°C /-2°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / 32 knots, 240°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.28 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	
Departure Point:	Boulder, CO	Destination:	Espanola, NM

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	35.583476,-105.33666 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Cornejo, Tealeye
Additional Participating Persons:	Dennis Beattie; FAA; Albuquerque, NM
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.