



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

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| Location: | Novato, CA | Accident Number: | WPR24LA023 |
| Date & Time: | October 26, 2023, 13:30 Local | Registration: | N28BS |
| Aircraft: | VANS AIRCRAFT INC RV-12 | Injuries: | 2 None |
| Flight Conducted Under: | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

On October 26, 2023, about 1330 Pacific daylight time, an Experimental Amateur-Built Vans RV-12, N28BS, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Novato, California. The pilot and passenger were not injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

According to the pilot, the accident flight was the first flight following completion of a condition inspection, which included rebuilding both carburetors and replacement of cylinder Nos 1 and 3 ignition leads. He stated that following an uneventful pre-takeoff engine runup, he initiated takeoff on runway 31, and the airplane seemed a little "lethargic" during the takeoff roll. As the airplane was about 100 ft above ground level, the engine began to run rough and lost partial power. The pilot initiated a 180° turn to runway 13 but was "too high and too fast." The pilot made a left turn to land on a nearby road, the airplane landed hard, and the nose wheel landing gear collapsed.

Postaccident examination of the airplane revealed that the fuselage was structurally damaged. The wreckage was relocated to a secure location for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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| Aircraft Make: | VANS AIRCRAFT INC | Registration: | N28BS |
| Model/Series: | RV-12 | Aircraft Category: | Airplane |
| Amateur Built: | Yes | | |
| Operator: | On file | Operating Certificate(s) Held: | None |
| Operator Designator Code: | | | |

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

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| Conditions at Accident Site: | VMC | Condition of Light: | Day |
| Observation Facility, Elevation: | KDVO,4 ft msl | Observation Time: | 13:35 Local |
| Distance from Accident Site: | 1 Nautical Miles | Temperature/Dew Point: | 19°C /1°C |
| Lowest Cloud Condition: | Clear | Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: | |
| Lowest Ceiling: | None | Visibility: | 10 miles |
| Altimeter Setting: | 30.1 inches Hg | Type of Flight Plan Filed: | NONE |
| Departure Point: | Novato, CA | Destination: | Novato, CA |

Wreckage and Impact Information

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|----------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Crew Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Damage: | Substantial |
| Passenger Injuries: | 1 None | Aircraft Fire: | None |
| Ground Injuries: | | Aircraft Explosion: | None |
| Total Injuries: | 2 None | Latitude, Longitude: | 38.14904,-122.56179 (est) |

Administrative Information

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| Investigator In Charge (IIC): | Cawthra, Joshua |
| Additional Participating Persons: | Justin Horn; Federal Aviation Administration; Oakland, CA |
| Investigation Class: | Class 3 |
| Note: | The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident. |