



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Jasper, GA	Accident Number:	ERA24LA158
Date & Time:	March 29, 2024, 11:30 Local	Registration:	N387E
Aircraft:	JMMT LLC VANS RV9A	Injuries:	1 Serious
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Flight test		

On March 29, 2024, about 1130 eastern daylight time, an Experimental Amateur Built Vans RV9A airplane, N387E, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near the Pickens County Airport (JZP), Jasper, Georgia. The private pilot sustained serious injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 test flight.

According to the private pilot who was also a builder of the airplane, the accident flight was the second flight during the phase one flight testing and the airplane had under two hours of total time. The purpose was to remain near the JZP airport and obtain engine performance data. The pilot reported that after a normal takeoff, he maintained 4,000 ft mean sea level near the airport during the observation of the engine performance, the observations were unremarkable, and then he descended to return to the traffic pattern.

The pilot reported that while approaching a left downwind for runway 34, he observed RPM decline and the Electronic Flight Instrument System (EFIS) timer announced, "change fuel tank." The pilot subsequently engaged the fuel boost pump and switched from the left to right fuel tank which was followed by a complete loss of engine power. The pilot elected to land in a field and during the landing, the left wing struck a utility pole.

Photographs revealed that the fuselage and wings sustained substantial damage.

The engine was an experimental rebuilt Lycoming O-320 engine with less than two hours since it had been rebuilt. The most recent condition inspection was completed on January 24, 2024.

The airplane was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	JMMT LLC	Registration:	N387E
Model/Series:	VANS RV9A NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	Yes		
Operator:	JMMT LLC	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:	CNI,1221 ft msl	Observation Time:	11:35 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	16°C /-3°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	10 knots / , 310°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.24 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Jasper, GA	Destination:	Jasper, GA

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Serious	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	34.468555,-84.495474 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Gerhardt, Adam
Additional Participating Persons:	Mike Jones; FAA/FSDO; Atlanta, GA
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.