



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Chamberino, NM	Accident Number:	WPR24FA213
Date & Time:	June 25, 2024, 13:39 Local	Registration:	N9709
Aircraft:	GRUMMAN ACFT ENG COR-SCHWEIZER G-164A	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

On June 25, 2024, about 1339 mountain daylight time, a Grumman Aircraft-Schweizer G-164A, N9709, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Chamberino, New Mexico. The pilot sustained fatal injuries. The aircraft was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

According to the operator and chief pilot, the accident pilot had recently received his tailwheel endorsement, and this was the pilot's first flight in the accident make and model airplane. The chief pilot instructed the accident pilot to takeoff, climb up "a couple thousand feet" and practice turns, climbs and descents, then return to Dona Ana County International Jetport Airport (DNA), Santa Teresa, New Mexico.

The chief pilot reported that the pilot departed DNA about 1330. According to a witness, he saw the airplane flying about 600 ft above ground level, about 15 miles west of DNA. A former pilot and long-time resident of the area, the witness remarked that the airplane's engine sounded normal, and did not sound "bogged down."

During the flight, the chief pilot and the accident pilot attempted to communicate via radio to no avail, and ultimately exchanged text messages to facilitate communication with each other. During the nearly 10-minute flight, the accident pilot sent a text indicating that the airplane, "shakes a little bit. I don't know if its normal." The chief pilot replied, "Yeah, it's just a lot of horsepower on the front of the plane." Moments later, the chief pilot sent another text message asking the accident pilot, "Are you okay?" with no response. The chief pilot saw a plume of smoke near the area where the accident pilot was operating. The chief pilot boarded an airplane, flew toward the plume of smoke and located the wreckage.

Examination of the accident site revealed that the airplane impacted sand covered terrain and came to rest on a heading of about 020° magnetic. No visible ground scars were observed at

the accident site. The empennage sustained thermal damage with most of the primary structure present. The fuselage, cockpit, and inboard portions of the upper and lower right and left wings were mostly consumed by fire. The outboard portions of the upper and lower left and right wings were intact. The left lower wingtip was located about 50 ft west of the main wreckage. All major structural components of the airplane were located at the accident site.

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

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	GRUMMAN ACFT ENG COR-SCHWEIZER	Registration:	N9709
Model/Series:	G-164A	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	NOR WES INC	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Agricultural aircraft (137)
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:		Condition of Light:	
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KDNA, 4113 ft msl	Observation Time:	13:35 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	9 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	38°C / 9°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ None
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.01 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	NONE
Departure Point:	Santa Teresa, NM (DNA)	Destination:	Santa Teresa, NM (DNA)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-ground
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	Unknown
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	32.02302,-106.7085

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Gary Medina; FAA; Albuquerque, NM
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	

