



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Williamsburg, Virginia	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA24LA381
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 13, 2024, 16:30 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N65RW
<b>Aircraft:</b>	WALDEN ROBERT VANS AIRCRAFT RV-7A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Hard landing	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The pilot was attempting to land on a 60-ft-wide runway with a 10 to 15 knot left crosswind. He described that he was too high on the approach and made an aggressive right-wing low forward slip to lose altitude. While transitioning to complete the crosswind landing, the pilot misjudged his height above the runway and landed hard, damaging the nose landing gear. The airplane began to veer off the runway and the pilot aborted the landing. On the next landing, when the damaged nose landing gear touched down, the airplane veered off the runway, impacted a trench, and nosed over resulting in substantial damage to the right wing, vertical stabilizer, and rudder. Following the accident, the pilot stated that he should have gone around on the first landing attempt since he was not stabilized on the approach. He also reported there were no mechanical malfunctions or failures of the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's decision to continue with an unstabilized approach which resulted in a hard landing and loss of directional control during a subsequent landing.

## Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	Descent/approach/glide path - Not attained/maintained
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Decision making/judgment - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Crosswind - Effect on operation

# Factual Information

## History of Flight

Landing-flare/touchdown	Hard landing (Defining event)
Landing-landing roll	Loss of control on ground
Landing-landing roll	Runway excursion
Landing-landing roll	Nose over/nose down

## Pilot Information

Certificate:	Airline transport; Commercial; Flight engineer; Flight instructor	Age:	72,Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	Seat Occupied:	Left
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	5-point
Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane multi-engine; Airplane single-engine; Instrument airplane	Toxicology Performed:	
Medical Certification:	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	Last FAA Medical Exam:	September 4, 2024
Occupational Pilot:	No	Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	August 29, 2024
Flight Time:	(Estimated) 22000 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1600 hours (Total, this make and model)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	WALDEN ROBERT	<b>Registration:</b>	N65RW
<b>Model/Series:</b>	VANS AIRCRAFT RV-7A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2012	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	Yes
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	72204
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming/MATTITUCK
<b>ELT:</b>		<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	TMX IO-390
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	210 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KJGG,49 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	37 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	16:35 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	0°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 2400 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	Overcast / 22000 ft AGL	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	3 knots / None	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>		<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	N/A / N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.14 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	26°C / 21°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>			
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Peachtree, GA (FFC)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	IFR
<b>Destination:</b>	Williamsburg, VA	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	IFR
<b>Departure Time:</b>	13:10 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class B;Class E

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	WILLIAMSBURG/JAMESTOWN JGG	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Asphalt
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	49 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	13/31	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	3204 ft / 60 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop;Go around

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	37,-76

## Administrative Information

**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Read, Leah

**Additional Participating Persons:** Mark Jennings; FAA/FSDO; Richmond, VA

**Original Publish Date:** January 21, 2025

**Last Revision Date:**

**Investigation Class:** [Class 4](#)

**Note:** The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.

**Investigation Docket:** <https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=195130>

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