



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Final Report

Location:	WELLINGTON, NV	Accident Number:	LAX98LA037
Date & Time:	11/01/1997, 0930 PST	Registration:	N44JR
Aircraft:	Rodgers/Gaust RV-6	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Defining Event:		Injuries:	1 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

All engine power was suddenly lost while cruising over mountainous terrain in the pilot's experimental airplane. The pilot made a forced landing on a soft, brush-covered field, and during rollout the airplane nosed over. The pilot indicated that the power loss resulted from the engine's mixture control cable breaking due to fatigue at its carburetor attachment fitting. The component had a total time in service of 114 hours.

Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: Fuel starvation due to a fatigue fractured mixture control cable. Contributing factors were the soft, brush-covered emergency landing field.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER(TOTAL) - MECH FAILURE/MALF
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

Findings

1. (C) MIXTURE CONTROL,CABLE - FRACTURED
2. (C) MIXTURE CONTROL,CABLE - FATIGUE
3. (C) FLUID,FUEL - STARVATION

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - EMERGENCY

Occurrence #3: ON GROUND/WATER COLLISION WITH OBJECT
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - OPEN FIELD
5. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - HIGH VEGETATION

Occurrence #4: NOSE OVER
Phase of Operation: LANDING - ROLL

Findings

6. (F) TERRAIN CONDITION - SOFT

Factual Information

On November 1, 1997, at 0930 hours Pacific standard time, an experimental Rodgers/Gaust RV-6, N44JR, owned and operated by the pilot, was substantially damaged during a forced landing near Wellington, Nevada. Neither the private pilot nor the passenger was injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed during the personal flight, and no flight plan was filed. The flight originated from Bishop, California, at 0830.

According to the pilot, engine power was suddenly lost while cruising over mountainous terrain en route to Carson City, Nevada. The pilot made a forced landing in a soft dirt field which was covered with sagebrush. During rollout the airplane nosed over.

The pilot reported that the airplane had a total engine and airframe time of 114 hours. In the pilot's completed report, he indicated that the loss of engine power resulted from the engine's mixture control cable breaking at its carburetor attachment fitting. The pilot verbally reported that he believed the cable broke due to fatigue.

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	49, Male
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Seat Occupied:	Right
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Restraint Used:	Seatbelt, Shoulder harness
Instrument Rating(s):	None	Second Pilot Present:	No
Instructor Rating(s):	None	Toxicology Performed:	No
Medical Certification:	Class 3 Valid Medical--no waivers/lim.	Last FAA Medical Exam:	08/06/1996
Occupational Pilot:		Last Flight Review or Equivalent:	
Flight Time:	1715 hours (Total, all aircraft), 114 hours (Total, this make and model), 1715 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 60 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 10 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Rodgers/Gaust	Registration:	N44JR
Model/Series:	RV-6 RV-6	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Year of Manufacture:		Amateur Built:	Yes
Airworthiness Certificate:	Experimental	Serial Number:	24545
Landing Gear Type:	Tailwheel	Seats:	2
Date/Type of Last Inspection:	05/02/1997, Annual	Certified Max Gross Wt.:	1600 lbs
Time Since Last Inspection:	114 Hours	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Airframe Total Time:	114 Hours	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
ELT:	Installed, activated, did not aid in locating accident	Engine Model/Series:	O-360-A1A
Registered Owner:	JERRY T. RODGERS	Rated Power:	180 hp
Operator:	JERRY T. RODGERS	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	, 0 ft msl	Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles
Observation Time:	0000	Direction from Accident Site:	0°
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear / 0 ft agl	Visibility	50 Miles
Lowest Ceiling:	None / 0 ft agl	Visibility (RVR):	0 ft
Wind Speed/Gusts:	Calm /	Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:	/
Wind Direction:		Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:	/
Altimeter Setting:		Temperature/Dew Point:	16° C
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	BISHOP, CA (BIH)	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Destination:	CARSON CITY, NV (004)	Type of Clearance:	None
Departure Time:	0830 PST	Type of Airspace:	Class G

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 None	Latitude, Longitude:	

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): WAYNE POLLACK **Report Date:** 01/28/2000

Additional Participating Persons: ADRIAN GRIEVE; RENO, NV

Publish Date:

Investigation Docket: NTSB accident and incident dockets serve as permanent archival information for the NTSB's investigations. Dockets released prior to June 1, 2009 are publicly available from the NTSB's Record Management Division at pubinq@ntsb.gov, or at 800-877-6799. Dockets released after this date are available at <http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/>.

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