



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	College Place, WA	Accident Number:	SEA04LA062
Date & Time:	04/01/2004, 1138 PST	Registration:	N284DM
Aircraft:	Davenport (Van's) RV-8F	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

The pilot of the homebuilt RV-8F departed runway 23 executing a climbing right turn, followed by a second RV-8F about 300 feet behind. As the second aircraft climbed through 300-400 feet above ground the pilot observed the first aircraft roll wings level and commence a descent while simultaneously turning back toward the departure airport and then impacting the ground in a wings level flat pitch attitude. The aircraft slid about 25-30 feet across the ground along a 200 degree magnetic track and its "G" meter registered +10 G's. Post crash examination of the aircraft's Franklin engine, the throttle system and engine fuel pump and boost pump revealed no evidence of mechanical or fuel related malfunction. Fuel was found in both fuel tanks and throughout the fuel lines up to the engine.

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of engine power for undetermined reason(s) and the pilot's failure to maintain adequate flying airspeed during the forced landing. A contributing factor was the pilot's decision to attempt a turn at low altitude.

Findings

Occurrence #1: LOSS OF ENGINE POWER
Phase of Operation: TAKEOFF - INITIAL CLIMB

Findings

1. (C) REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED

Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING AFTER TAKEOFF

Occurrence #3: LOSS OF CONTROL - IN FLIGHT
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY LANDING AFTER TAKEOFF

Findings

2. (C) AIRSPEED - NOT MAINTAINED - PILOT IN COMMAND
3. (F) IN-FLIGHT PLANNING/DECISION - IMPROPER - PILOT IN COMMAND

Occurrence #4: IN FLIGHT COLLISION WITH TERRAIN/WATER
Phase of Operation: DESCENT - UNCONTROLLED

Findings

4. TERRAIN CONDITION - GROUND

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Flight Instructor; Commercial	Age:	60
Airplane Rating(s):	Multi-engine Land; Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	Instrument Rating(s):	Airplane
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	Airplane Single-engine
Flight Time:	3500 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Davenport (Van's)	Registration:	N284DM
Model/Series:	RV-8F	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Davenport, David M.	Engine Manufacturer:	Franklin
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	6A-350-C1
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	ALW, 1205 ft msl	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	8 knots, 230°
Temperature:	12°C / -1°C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:			
Departure Point:	College Place, WA (S95)	Destination:	Walla Walla, WA (ALW)

Airport Information

Airport:	Martin Field (S95)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	23	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	3840 ft / 60 ft		

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC): Steven A McCreary

Adopted Date: 09/29/2004

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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