



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

<b>Location:</b>	Caldwell, ID	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR09LA378
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	08/01/2009, 1350 MDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N69KG
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Gray RV-6	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

According to a family member of the pilot, the airplane had sat on the airport's ramp for about a year without having been flown. About a week before the accident, the pilot flew the airplane once around the traffic pattern. On the day of the accident, the pilot had removed and sandblasted the spark plugs, checked the cylinders for compression, and removed and cleaned the air filter; the filter was reported to have had "some goop" on it. A witness reported observing the airplane take off, and, as it went by him at 100 to 200 feet above ground level, he heard a "popping noise." He subsequently observed the airplane make a quick left turn to a left downwind leg, and as the airplane continued on the downwind he observed the nose increase in pitch, but it was not climbing. As the airplane came abeam the numbers, it made a steep left turn, followed by the nose dropping before it dove into the ground and erupted in flames. The airplane was consumed by a post impact fire. A post accident examination of the engine revealed no anomalies with the cylinders and valve train. All spark plugs were found to have excessive gaps, and all but one failed a bench check when exposed to pressure greater than 80 psi. A post accident examination of the airframe revealed no anomalies. No aircraft or engine logbooks were located during the investigation.

## Flight Events

Initial climb - Loss of engine power (partial)  
Approach-VFR pattern downwind - Loss of control in flight  
Approach-VFR pattern downwind - Aerodynamic stall/spin  
Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:  
The pilot's failure to maintain adequate airspeed that led to a stall/spin while maneuvering in the traffic pattern.

## Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-(general)-Not attained/maintained - C  
Aircraft-Aircraft oper/perf/capability-Performance/control parameters-Airspeed-Not attained/maintained - C  
Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Pilot - C

## Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	35
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	302 hours (Total, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Gray	Registration:	N69KG
Model/Series:	RV-6	Engines:	1 Reciprocating
Operator:	Justin C. Walker	Engine Manufacturer:	Lycoming
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	O-320
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	EUL, 2432 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:	3 knots, 190°
Temperature:	33°C / 9°C	Visibility	5 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Caldwell, ID (EUL)	Destination:	Caldwell, ID (EUL)

## Airport Information

Airport:	Caldwell Industrial Airport (EUL)	Runway Surface Type:	Asphalt
Runway Used:	12	Runway Surface Condition:	Dry
Runway Length/Width:	5500 ft / 100 ft		

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	On-Ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Thomas Little	Adopted Date:	03/03/2010
Investigation Docket:	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74419">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=74419</a>		

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