



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

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<b>Location:</b>	Talorsville, GA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA12FA057
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	11/01/2011, 1642 EDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N262MA
<b>Aircraft:</b>	ECKENRODE CARL J VANS RV-6	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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## Analysis

The 70-year-old pilot and owner of the amateur-built airplane was conducting a cross-country flight in visual meteorological conditions. The airplane was at an altitude of 6,500 feet when the pilot contacted an en route air traffic control facility. The pilot was provided an altimeter setting and was instructed to remain clear of nearby Class B airspace, which he acknowledged. There were no further communications from the pilot. During the next 8 minutes, the airplane's altitude fluctuated, increasing about 500 feet, before the airplane turned to the right and entered a steep descent. The airplane impacted a field in an almost straight nose down attitude and was highly fragmented. Examination of the wreckage did not reveal any preimpact mechanical malfunctions. The airplane had been operated for about 50 hours since its most recent condition inspection, which was performed about 10 months before the accident.

The nature of the airplane's departure from controlled flight was consistent with the pilot becoming incapacitated. However, the pilot's son described the pilot as very active and said that he was not aware of the pilot experiencing any health issues. The pilot's health was described as "fine" by his primary care physician during an examination about 6 months before the accident. During the pilot's most recent Federal Aviation Administration medical examination about 7 months before the accident, the pilot reported a history of hypertension, which was previously reported and "well controlled" by three prescription medications that he had previously reported. The injuries sustained by the pilot precluded a determination of whether natural disease caused or contributed to the accident and death.

## Flight Events

Enroute-cruise - Loss of control in flight  
Uncontrolled descent - Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)  
Unknown - Unknown or undetermined

## Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: The airplane's entry into an uncontrolled descent for reasons that could not be determined because postaccident examination of the airplane and the pilot's medical history did not reveal any anomalies that would have precluded normal operation.

## Findings

Personnel issues-Task performance-Use of equip/info-Aircraft control-Not specified - C  
Not determined-Not determined-(general)-(general)-Unknown/Not determined - C

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	70
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine Land; Single-engine Sea	<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None
<b>Flight Time:</b>	1100 hours (Total, all aircraft), 50 hours (Total, this make and model), 1010 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 18 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 6 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 5 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	ECKENRODE CARL J	<b>Registration:</b>	N262MA
<b>Model/Series:</b>	VANS RV-6	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Operator:</b>	P-L AIR INC	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	None	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	VPC, 759 ft msl	<b>Weather Information Source:</b>	Weather Observation Facility
<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual Conditions	<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None
<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	3 knots, 20°
<b>Temperature:</b>	20° C / -1° C	<b>Visibility</b>	10 Miles
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Mount Sterling, KY (IOB)	<b>Destination:</b>	Eufaula, AL (EUF)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

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

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Luke Schiada	<b>Adopted Date:</b>	11/07/2012
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=82219">http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=82219</a>		

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