



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Data Summary

Location:	Spearfish, SD	Accident Number:	CEN13LA220
Date & Time:	04/04/2013, 1640 MDT	Registration:	N525PW
Aircraft:	Walker Phil RV-6A	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Analysis

While climbing through 6,000 feet, the engine suddenly lost power. The pilot stated that, although he subsequently switched on the auxiliary fuel pump and ignition system, the engine did not restart; therefore, he executed a forced landing to a nearby pasture. The nose landing gear collapsed during the landing, and the airplane came to rest inverted. Examination of the automotive engine, which had been adapted for aviation use, found that the coil-distributor wire had loosened and was not connected to the coil. It is likely that the wire came loose during flight, which rendered the automotive ignition system inoperative and caused the engine to lose power.

Flight Events

Enroute - Powerplant sys/comp malf/fail
Enroute - Loss of engine power (total)
Emergency descent - Off-field or emergency landing

Probable Cause

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:
The coil-distributor wire loosening in flight, which rendered the ignition system inoperative and subsequently caused the loss of engine power.

Findings

Aircraft-Aircraft power plant-Ignition system-Dist (ignition harness)-Not specified - C
Aircraft-Aircraft power plant-Power plant-(general)-Failure - C

Pilot Information

Certificate:	Private	Age:	33
Airplane Rating(s):	Single-engine Land	Instrument Rating(s):	None
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	None	Instructor Rating(s):	None
Flight Time:	291 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1 hours (Total, this make and model), 272 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 39 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 15 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

Flight Instructor Information

Certificate:	Age:
Airplane Rating(s):	Instrument Rating(s):
Other Aircraft Rating(s):	Instructor Rating(s):
Flight Time:	

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Manufacturer:	Walker Phil	Registration:	N525PW
Model/Series:	RV-6A	Engines:	Reciprocating
Operator:	On file	Engine Manufacturer:	Chevy
Air Carrier Operating Certificate:	None	Engine Model/Series:	4.6L
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	KSPF	Weather Information Source:	Weather Observation Facility
Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Lowest Ceiling:	None
Condition of Light:	Day	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	17 knots/ 22 knots, 100°
Temperature:	12° C / -4° C	Visibility	10 Miles
Precipitation and Obscuration:	No Precipitation		
Departure Point:	Spearfish, ND	Destination:	Spearfish, ND

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	2 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Craig Hatch	Adopted Date:	12/11/2013
Investigation Docket:	http://dms.nts.gov/pubdms/search/dockList.cfm?mKey=86597		

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