



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Alvord Desert, OR	Accident Number:	WPR19LA191
Date & Time:	07/17/2019, 1225 PDT	Registration:	N112AJ
Aircraft:	Bolkow PHOEBUS	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General Aviation - Glider Tow		

On July 17, 2019, about 1225 Pacific daylight time, a Bolkow Phoebus B-1 glider, N112AJ, was destroyed following impact with terrain in Alvord Desert, Oregon. The pilot was fatally injured. The glider was registered to and operated by a private individual under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 as a personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the local flight and no flight plan was filed. The flight was originating at the time of the accident.

The flight was a part of Willamette Valley Soaring Clubs annual Alvord Safari. The glider was launched using the "auto-tow" method which utilized a vehicle that pulled the glider to achieve lift. Numerous witnesses reported that the glider took off in an unusually steep rate of climb to about 60 ft above ground level before the left wing dropped and the glider rolled to the left and impacted the desert floor. The wreckage was recovered to a secure location for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bolkow	Registration:	N112AJ
Model/Series:	PHOEBUS B1	Aircraft Category:	Glider
Amateur Built:	No		
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Condition of Light:
Observation Facility, Elevation:	Observation Time:
Distance from Accident Site:	Temperature/Dew Point:
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction: / ,
Lowest Ceiling:	Visibility:
Altimeter Setting:	Type of Flight Plan Filed:
Departure Point:	Destination:

Wreckage and Impact Information

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

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Maja Smith
Additional Participating Persons:	
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.