



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Auburn, CA	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR20FA077
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	01/24/2020, 1000 PST	<b>Registration:</b>	N50249
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Stinson V77	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal, 1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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On January 24, 2020, about 1000 Pacific standard time, a Stinson Vultee V-77 airplane, N50249, was destroyed when it collided with terrain about 3/4-mile northeast of Auburn Municipal Airport (AUN), Auburn, California. The commercial pilot and pilot-rated passenger were fatally injured, and the private pilot was seriously injured. The airplane was registered to and operated by the pilot under the provisions of Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 as a personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed for the local flight. The airplane departed AUN about 0945.

Several witnesses reported that they heard the airplane's engine "backfiring" and "stuttering" and subsequently heard the engine quit. Additionally, a witness at the airport, who was monitoring the airport's Unicom frequency, stated that he heard the pilot of the accident airplane make a distress call reporting that he had lost his engine and shortly thereafter heard the pilot radio that he was going down in the trees.

Examination of the wreckage by the National Transportation Safety Board investigator-in-charge revealed that the airplane struck tall trees and subsequently came to rest in rocky wooded terrain, located near the top of a hill. All major components of the airplane necessary for flight were located at the accident site. The airplane was recovered to a secure location for further examination.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Stinson	<b>Registration:</b>	N50249
<b>Model/Series:</b>	V77 No Series	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No		
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KAUN, 1531 ft msl	Observation Time:	0955 PST
Distance from Accident Site:	1 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	14° C / 10° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm / ,
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.19 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Auburn, CA (AUN)	Destination:	Auburn, CA (AUN)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal, 1 Serious	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal, 1 Serious	Latitude, Longitude:	38.959444, -121.065833 (est)

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Albert P Nixon
Additional Participating Persons:	Joseph Mitchell; Federal Aviation Administration; Sacramento, CA
Note:	The NTSB traveled to the scene of this accident.