



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAILROAD



PIPELINE

# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Mimbres, New Mexico	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR23LA230
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	June 11, 2023, 17:10 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N60605
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Vans RV6A	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Hard landing	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 1 Minor
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

Prior to landing, the pilot made a low pass from north to south to check the windsock, which indicated a crosswind from the southwest; it was stable and not flapping and favored runway 16. During the landing flare, the airplane was struck by a gust of wind and the nose rose upward at a steep angle and then slammed back onto the ground. The nose wheel landing gear bent, and as the airplane slid down the runway the bent nose landing gear dug into the ground and the airplane flipped onto its back.

The pilot reported that there was no evidence of any preexisting mechanical malfunction with the airplane that would have precluded normal operation.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The pilot's inflight loss of control while landing with wind gusts that resulted in a hard landing and subsequent nose over.

## Findings

<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Aircraft</b>	Landing flare - Attain/maintain not possible
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Gusts - Contributed to outcome

## Factual Information

### History of Flight

<b>Landing-flare/touchdown</b>	Hard landing (Defining event)
<b>Landing-landing roll</b>	Landing gear collapse
<b>Landing-landing roll</b>	Nose over/nose down

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	76, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	4-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 3 Without waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	September 13, 2022
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	May 25, 2021
<b>Flight Time:</b>	3834 hours (Total, all aircraft), 1697 hours (Total, this make and model), 3780 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 4 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 3 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

### Passenger Information

<b>Certificate:</b>		<b>Age:</b>	Female
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>		<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Right
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>		<b>Restraint Used:</b>	4-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>		<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>		<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	
<b>Medical Certification:</b>		<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>			

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Vans	<b>Registration:</b>	N60605
<b>Model/Series:</b>	RV6A	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2001	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	Yes
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	25379
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	October 30, 2022 Condition	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1750 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	10 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	1697 Hrs at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>ELT:</b>	C126 installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-360-A1A
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	On file	<b>Rated Power:</b>	180 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KSVC, 5446 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	16 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	17:15 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	227°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	10 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	13 knots / 23 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	None / None
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	230°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	N/A / N/A
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.66 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	27.2°C / -0.6°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Moriarty, NM (0E0)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Mimbres, NM	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:40 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	Class G

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	CASAS ADOBES AIRPARK NM69	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Dirt;Gravel
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	5800 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry;Vegetation
<b>Runway Used:</b>	16	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	3800 ft / 30 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Full stop;Traffic pattern

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Minor	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious, 1 Minor	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	32.814164,-107.93999(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Cornejo, Tealeye
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Geary Monckton; Federal Aviation Administration; Albuquerque, NM
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	October 20, 2023
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class 4</a>
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=192404">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=192404</a>

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant events in other modes of transportation—railroad, transit, highway, marine, pipeline, and commercial space. We determine the probable causes of the accidents and events we investigate, and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future occurrences. In addition, we conduct transportation safety research studies and offer information and other assistance to family members and survivors for each accident or event we investigate. We also serve as the appellate authority for enforcement actions involving aviation and mariner certificates issued by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and US Coast Guard, and we adjudicate appeals of civil penalty actions taken by the FAA.

The NTSB does not assign fault or blame for an accident or incident; rather, as specified by NTSB regulation, “accident/incident investigations are fact-finding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties ... and are not conducted for the purpose of determining the rights or liabilities of any person” (Title 49 *Code of Federal Regulations* section 831.4). Assignment of fault or legal liability is not relevant to the NTSB’s statutory mission to improve transportation safety by investigating accidents and incidents and issuing safety recommendations. In addition, statutory language prohibits the admission into evidence or use of any part of an NTSB report related to an accident in a civil action for damages resulting from a matter mentioned in the report (Title 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b)). A factual report that may be admissible under 49 *United States Code* section 1154(b) is available [here](#).