



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Picacho Peak, AZ	Accident Number:	WPR24FA185
Date & Time:	June 8, 2024, 07:21 Local	Registration:	N518D
Aircraft:	FROST DEAN C RANS S-12XL AIRAILE	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On June 8, 2024, about 0721 mountain standard time, an experimental amateur-built Rans S-12XL Airaile, N518D, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Picacho Peak, Arizona. The pilot sustained fatal injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

According to witnesses, the morning of the accident, the pilot departed La Cholla Airpark, Tucson, Arizona, about 0700 and flew northwest about 22 nm to the area of Picacho Peak State Park, Arizona. Witnesses that were hiking near the accident site reported that the airplane was flying close to the north side of the peak and subsequently impacted the ground about 81 ft below the peak. One of the witnesses checked the pilot's vital signs and noticed a strong odor of fuel at the site.

Examination of the accident site revealed that the airplane came to rest in a nose-low attitude. Both wings, and empennage remained attached to the fuselage. Flight control continuity was established from the cockpit to each of the primary flight control surfaces. The wreckage was transported to a secure facility for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	FROST DEAN C	Registration:	N518D
Model/Series:	RANS S-12XL AIRAILE	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	Yes		
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KMZJ, 1892 ft msl	Observation Time:	07:15 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	27°C /1°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	4 knots / 12 knots, 130°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.9 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Tucson, AZ (57AZ)	Destination:	Tucson, AZ (57AZ)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	32.635398,-111.40079 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Michael
Additional Participating Persons:	Randy Weese; Federal Aviation Administration; Scottsdale, AZ
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	