



National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

Location:	Mayfield, KY	Accident Number:	ERA21FA135
Date & Time:	February 22, 2021, 17:56 Local	Registration:	N383DB
Aircraft:	BABENCO HENRY D. RV-7	Injuries:	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On February 22, 2021, about 1756 central standard time, an experimental amateur-built Vans RV-7, N383DB, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Mayfield, Kentucky. The private pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 personal flight.

Several witnesses observed the airplane as it conducted touch-and-go landings on runway 1 at Mayfield Graves County Airport (M25), Mayfield, Kentucky. Another witness who was in a vehicle traveling eastbound on a nearby highway saw the airplane climbing, and stated that “as the airplane went higher, the tail dropped and the plane went into a back flip.” The airplane then “headed nose first towards the ground.” The airplane impacted the ground about 1,000 ft north of the airport in an open field.

Postaccident examination of the wreckage revealed that all components of the airplane were accounted for at the accident scene and flight control continuity was confirmed from the cockpit controls to each flight control surface. In addition, there was an odor similar to aviation fuel in the vicinity of the wreckage. Examination of the airplane’s engine revealed no evidence of any preimpact mechanical malfunctions or failures that would have precluded normal operation.

An engine data monitor was recovered and retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	BABENCO HENRY D.	Registration:	N383DB
Model/Series:	RV-7 NO SERIES	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:	No		
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:	KCEY, 578 ft msl	Observation Time:	17:55 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	12 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	7° C / -1° C
Lowest Cloud Condition:		Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / , 200°
Lowest Ceiling:		Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.05 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Mayfield, KY (M25)	Destination:	Mayfield, KY

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	36.779157, -88.584105 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Wentz, Peter
Additional Participating Persons:	Brad Gottschalk; FAA FSDO; Memphis, TN David Robinson; FAA FSDO; Nashville, TN Troy Helgeson; Lycoming Engines; Denver, CO
Note:	