Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Mayfield, KY	**Accident Number:**	WPR27FA034
Date & Time:	November 8, 2026, 14:05 Local	**Registration:**	N339NA
Aircraft:	Aero Vodochody L39C	**Injuries:**	1 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On November 8, 2026, at about 1405 central standard time, an Aero Vodochody L39C airplane, N339NA, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Mayfield, Kentucky. The pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

The accident airplane and another L39C arrived at Mayfield Graves County Airport, (M25), Mayfield, Kentucky, at about 1320. According to the airport manager, the pilots of both airplanes purchased fuel and ate lunch at the terminal building. Shortly thereafter, both pilots boarded their respective airplanes and prepared to depart.

The airplanes' taxi and departure were recorded by security cameras and a witness at the airport. The videos showed the airplanes taxi together from the apron to the end of runway 01, with the accident airplane in a loose left echelon position behind the other L39C. The airplanes' departure roll was initially unremarkable; however, after the accident airplane rotated, the wings began to rock. About six seconds later, two loud, metallic crackling sounds were heard, an object fell from the airplane and onto the runway, and a puff of smoke came from the exhaust tailpipe. The airplane entered a left bank, descended, and disappeared below a line of trees. A large plume of black smoke appeared several seconds later. The pilot of the other airplane was subsequently able to return to the airport for landing.

The airplane impacted a harvested corn field about 0.5 mile west of the departure end of runway 01. Examination of the accident site revealed the wreckage path was about 560 ft long and roughly oriented on a magnetic heading of 233°. The beginning of the wreckage path featured a series of long, shallow impact craters, followed by a deep culvert that contained burned foliage, a landing gear door, and the right aileron.

The main wreckage was thermally damaged, and the field around it had burned. The fuselage had broken up into two sections aft of the wings. The cockpit, fuselage center section, and

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wings came to rest upright facing northwest. The engine and empennage were partially inverted and came to rest facing southeast.

The wreckage was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Aero Vodochody	**Registration:**	N339NA
Model/Series:	L39C	**Aircraft Category:**	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
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:	M25,522 ft msl	**Observation Time:**	13:55 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles	**Temperature/Dew Point:**	0°C /0°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	**Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:**	5 knots / None, 250°
Lowest Ceiling:		**Visibility:**	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:		**Type of Flight Plan Filed:**	
Departure Point:	Mayfield, KY	**Destination:**	

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	**Aircraft Damage:**	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:		**Aircraft Fire:**	On-ground
Ground Injuries:		**Aircraft Explosion:**	Unknown
Total Injuries:	1 Fatal	**Latitude, Longitude:**	36.778011,-88.592896

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Whitaker, Kathryn
Additional Participating Persons:	Lou Wiseheart; Federal Aviation Administration; Louisville, KY Camp Morton; Honeywell Aerospace; Phoenix, AZ Stanislav Suchý; Air Accidents Investigation Institute; Prague
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	

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