



NTSB *TRAINING CENTER*

Case Study: Is Your Aircraft Talking To You?

Jill Demko
Technical Training Officer

History of Flight

- Vans RV-6
- Departed 20 minutes before accident
- Maintenance test flight
- Witness reported white smoke trailing from the airplane
- Aircraft pitched down/impacted ground
- Private pilot was fatally injured

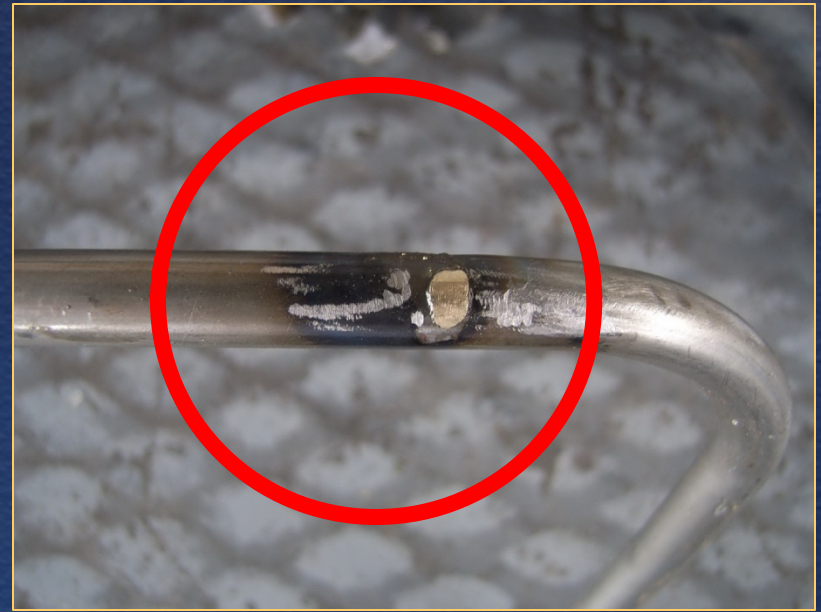
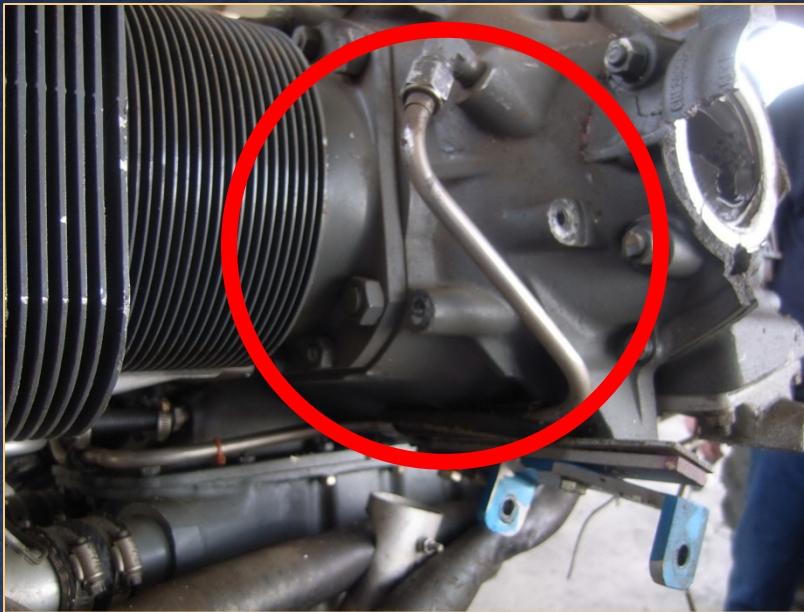
Mechanical Problem

- Oil leak discovered 6 weeks earlier
- Source of leak: propeller governor high pressure oil line
- Weld repair was made
- Pilot departed for test flight, but chose to conduct cross-country flight

Accident Site



Wreckage Examination



Probable Cause

...A total loss of engine power due to oil starvation as a result of a leak from the inadequate weld repair of a high-pressure oil line. Also causal was the pilot's failure to maintain adequate airspeed while maneuvering that resulted in a stall during an attempted off-field landing and the pilot's decision to continue flight with a known discrepancy.

Missed Opportunities

- Stick to original maintenance test flight plan
- Avoid turning maintenance flight into personal cross-country flight
- Review:
 - Manufacturer's service bulletin
 - FAA airworthiness directive

Lessons Learned

- Know the aircraft
- Land as soon as possible
- Stick to the original plan
- Emergency procedures
 - Fly the aircraft
 - Practice
- Knowledge of service bulletins and FAA airworthiness directives



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