



# Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

<b>Location:</b>	Ennis, MT	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR26LA155
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	April 10, 2026, 12:10 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N136EM
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Aero Vodochody L-39	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Minor, 1 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Instructional		

On April 10, 2026, about 1210 mountain daylight time, an Aero Vodochody L-39, N136EM, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Ennis, Montana. The flight instructor sustained minor injuries, and the pilot undergoing instruction was uninjured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 instructional flight.

The flight was conducted in preparation for an upcoming checkride for the pilot undergoing instruction, who was seated in the front seat. The flight crew was performing a practice instrument approach to runway 16 at Ennis - Big Sky airport and were descending through 8,500 ft mean sea level when the pilot began to slow the airplane and configure it for landing.

The pilot stated that as the airplane slowed to 190 knots, the engine rolled back to zero thrust, and the flight instructor reported that when the throttle was advanced, the engine did not respond. The instructor assumed control of the airplane and slowed it to best glide airspeed while the pilot began performing engine relight procedures. The engine did not restart, and with limited altitude available, the crew decided to perform a forced gear-up landing to an open field rather than risk ejecting.

The pilot provided guidance to the flight instructor during the final approach and flare, and the airplane touched down facing uphill, eventually coming to rest about 500 yards beyond the touchdown point.

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the lower fuselage and both wings during the accident sequence.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Aero Vodochody	<b>Registration:</b>	N136EM
<b>Model/Series:</b>	L-39	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Amateur Built:</b>			
<b>Operator:</b>	JDI HOLDINGS LLC	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>			

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	VMC	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KBZN,4431 ft msl	<b>Observation Time:</b>	12:56 Local
<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	35 Nautical Miles	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	13°C /-2°C
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	4 knots / None, 360°
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility:</b>	10 miles
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.95 inches Hg	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	VFR
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Bozeman (BZN)	<b>Destination:</b>	Ennis, MT

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Minor, 1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Minor, 1 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	45.309167,-111.63683

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Simpson, Elliott
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Bryan Hanson; FAA FSDO; Helena, MT
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class 3</a>
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.