

Crash Shows Dangers of Home Built Aircraft

The Flight Safety Detectives examine the safety risks of kit aircraft.

DENVER, COLORADO, UNITED STATES, March 27, 2024 /EINPresswire.com/ -- Home-built aircraft are dangerous concludes the latest episode of the Flight Safety Detectives podcast.

Special guest Miles O'Brien joins Todd Curtis and John Goglia to discuss an August 2023 crash of a Kit Fox Model 3 aircraft that seriously injured the pilot.

The FAA's approach to home-built aircraft allows owners to build their aircraft with little or no direct oversight.

Photograph 1 - Accident Site (Courtesy of Local Law Enforcement)

Source: NTSB Public Docket CEN23LA381

Kit Aircraft Have Safety Risks

The accident rate is more than two times higher than general aviation aircraft.

The pilot did not have a current FAA medical certification or a current endorsement to operate an aircraft as a single pilot. According to the maintenance documentation, in the eight years prior to the accident, the pilot had fewer than three hours of flight time.

Home-built aircraft have advantages such as lower cost of ownership. Kit built aircraft have grown in popularity as more manufacturers enter the market. There are even high schools that build kit aircraft for resale as part of their educational programs.

The safety risks are high. Kit aircraft are certified as experimental aircraft by the FAA. Some have modifications that would not be allowed on other kinds of general aviation aircraft. Little more than a driver's license is needed to pilot one of these aircraft.

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