



# Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

<b>Location:</b>	West Glacier, MT	<b>Accident Number:</b>	WPR25FA223
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	July 26, 2025, 09:42 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N1342R
<b>Aircraft:</b>	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP. AA-5	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On July 26, 2025, about 0942 mountain daylight time, a Grumman AA-5, N1342R, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near West Glacier, Montana. The pilot and passenger were fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

Multiple witnesses located at the remote airstrip reported that the airplane taxied to the approach end of runway 15 and started the takeoff roll. They also reported that there was not an engine run-up prior to takeoff. During this time there were two airplanes flying near the airstrip with the intention of landing and were communicating with the accident airplane. The witnesses on the ground reported that as the airplane was on its takeoff roll, the engine was at a high RPM and sounded normal, but seemed to moving slow. One of the witnesses recalled seeing the flaps retracted during this time. The airplane continued down the grass covered airstrip and did not become airborne until it reached the end of the runway. The airplane collided with trees and terrain and a postimpact fire ensued.

The accident site was located in wooded and rocky outcropped terrain on the edge of a clearing about 440 ft from the end of the runway. The accident site was at an elevation of 3,625 ft mean sea level and on a magnetic heading of 152° from the end of the runway. The debris field was about 80 ft long on a directional heading of about 150° magnetic. The main wreckage was the furthest in the debris field and was comprised of the fuselage, empennage, firewall, engine, propeller, and portions of the right wing. The left wing and the outboard right wing were found in the debris field.

The wreckage was relocated to a secured facility for further examination.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP.	<b>Registration:</b>	N1342R
<b>Model/Series:</b>	AA-5	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Amateur Built:</b>			
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<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>	KGPI,2963 ft msl	<b>Observation Time:</b>	09:55 Local
<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	16 Nautical Miles	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	21°C /9°C
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	/ None
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility:</b>	10 miles
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.89 inches Hg	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	NONE
<b>Departure Point:</b>	West Glacier, MT	<b>Destination:</b>	West Glacier, MT

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	48.478384,-113.95967

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Swick, Andrew
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Mark Platt; Lycoming Engines; Phoenix, AZ Bryan Hanson; FAA-FSDO; Helena, MT
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class 3</a>
<b>Note:</b>	