

Light plane crashes near Mount Barker, pilot and passenger escape serious injury

By [Graeme Powell](#) and Cameron McAloon



Photo: The plane was destroyed in the crash after clipping trees and flipping upside down. (Supplied: WA Police)

Two people whose light plane crashed in Western Australia's Great Southern after clipping trees during an attempted emergency landing are lucky to have survived, officials say.

The pilot of the two-seater RV-9 aircraft radioed he was in trouble near Muirs Highway, five kilometres west of Mount Barker near Albany, late on Sunday afternoon.

The amateur-built plane had suffered engine problems and lost all power as he attempted to land on an access road.

Police said the aircraft clipped trees on its approach and crashed nose first onto the service road near the highway, flipping upside down before skidding to a halt.



Photo: The pilot attempted an emergency landing after suffering engine problems. (ABC News: Cameron McAloon)

The pilot and a female passenger managed to free themselves and walk away from the wreckage as it was leaking fuel, with firefighters who were called to the scene dousing the plane in foam.

The pilot and the passenger received minor injuries, police said.

Paramedics said they were amazed the couple were not badly hurt.

They were taken to Albany Hospital for a check up as a precaution but were discharged on Sunday night. The pilot is believed to be from the Perth suburb of Midland, about 50 years old and regular flyer.

'I knew he was in trouble'



Photo: The pilot and passenger walked away from the crash with minor injuries. (ABC News: Cameron McAloon)_ Daniel Martin, who owns the property where the plane came down, said he ran over and pulled out the two occupants after the plane landed about 150 metres from where he was standing in a paddock. "I was feeding some livestock and checking on some animals and heard a bit of a noise and a bit of a splutter, looked up in the air and there's a plane a lot lower than anything else that normally comes across the property," he told the ABC.

"The pilot didn't have control of it. It was very, very close to a lot of trees.

"I knew he was in trouble - he could not keep the plane straight.

"He missed one lot of tree lines, he's tried to line-up the highway for a safer landing and he's hit the next lot of trees unfortunately."

He said the engine had been making an unusual noise prior to the crash.

"You could hear in the air [the engine] just wasn't right," Mr Martin said.

"I yelled at the occupants to make sure they were all right and I pulled them out.

"We all got covered in gas but I just wanted to get them out of the plane and away from the plane because we knew it was a bit dangerous."

The plane is understood to have been built in 2005.

The Australian Transport Safety Bureau said it would investigate the crash landing.



Photo: It is believed the pilot was aiming to land on the access road when the plane crashed. (ABC News: Cameron McAloon)

Extracted from: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-09-05/light-plane-crashes-near-mount-barker-in-wa/7813428>

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