

SYNOPSIS

Owner and Operator:	Private
Aircraft:	RANS S6 COYOTE II, EC-YDQ
Date and time of accident:	Friday, 15 July 2016 at 20:28 local time ¹
Site of accident:	Vicinity of “Los Garranchos” Airfield (San Javier-Murcia)
Persons onboard:	1, killed
Type of flight:	General aviation - Private
Date of approval:	27 September 2017

Summary of the accident

The pilot was flying a second traffic circuit of the “Los Garranchos” airfield, in the municipality of San Javier (Murcia). Based on information provided by eyewitnesses, during the final phase of the circuit the engine misfired and seemed to stop. The aircraft pitched up and veered to its right, vertically impacting the terrain. The pilot was killed as a result of the impact. The aircraft was outfitted with a ballistic parachute. While this parachute was being deactivated by specialized personnel, a fire broke out that affected the aircraft.

The investigation concluded that the accident occurred due to a loss of control of the aircraft after the downwind leg of the airfield circuit. No signs were found that the aircraft and/or its components malfunctioned, although it could not be ruled out that a drop in power at the most critical point in the circuit surprised the pilot, who did not have experience on the aircraft.

The following factors contributed to the accident:

- the wind conditions that day at the airfield, with moderate winds and strong gusts that could have affected the aircraft’s behavior at the most critical point in the circuit if the engine failed,
- the pilot’s lack of experience on this aircraft type, which was less powerful and had an opposite direction of propeller rotation than his usual aircraft and
- the fact that the pilot had been tuning up the engine before making the first flight with the aircraft, which might have contributed to a possible engine failure.

The investigation also conducted an analysis on the use of ballistic parachutes on aircraft and the lack of knowledge that emergency personnel (firefighting, rescue, etc.) have regarding this system. Several safety recommendations are issued in this regard on the need to warn, inform and train said personnel in order to avoid an inadvertent ignition of the system, which could compromise the physical integrity of nearby individuals in the event of an aircraft accident or incident in which the parachute does not deploy.

¹ All times in this report are local unless otherwise specified. To obtain UTC time, subtract 2 hours from local time.