

Timothy N. Sorensen
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: February 9, 2026

Person Contacted: Inspector Jay Dankoff

NTSB Accident Number: CEN25LA328 - Parker, Colorado

Narrative:

Insp. Dankoff conducted a post-accident examination of the experimental airplane. A set of Matco wheel-brake assemblies and Sky Designs carbon fiber wheel fairings were installed on the airplane.

Insp. Dankoff confirmed that the right wheel assembly had separated from the landing gear strut resulting in the pilot's loss of control during landing. The four attachment bolts were retained by the wheel assembly and were bent. The nuts were not recovered. Damage to the landing gear strut was consistent with contact to the ground following separation of the wheel assembly. No evidence that the wheel separation was related to an anomaly on the strut was observed.

Insp. Dankoff noted that retaining nuts used on left landing gear wheel assembly incorporated a nylon-type locking feature. The specified self-locking nut did not include a nylon-type locking feature. Although the attachment hardware used may have been incorrect for the installation, there was no evidence that the hardware had failed to perform as designed.

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