



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Hamilton, MT	Accident Number:	WPR24LA129
Date & Time:	April 22, 2024, 12:19 Local	Registration:	N163Z
Aircraft:	SHORT BROTHERS SD3-60 SHERPA	Injuries:	3 None
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Other work use		

On April 22, 2024, about 1219 mountain daylight time, a Short Brothers SD3-60, N163Z, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Hamilton, Montana. The two pilots and designated pilot examiner were not injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 other work use flight.

According to the pilots, a pilot-in-command proficiency check flight was being conducted, with a designated pilot examiner utilizing the flight deck jump seat. Prior to performing a simulated single engine approach to runway 17 at Ravalli County Airport (HRF), Hamilton, Montana, the pilot in command (PIC) noticed that the hydraulic reservoir display was “at the bottom limit in the yellow arc.” All pre-landing checklist items were completed, including brake function checks.

After landing on runway 17, during the landing roll, the airplane began to veer right of centerline, and the PIC added left rudder correction. A vibration developed and increased as the airplane continued to veer to the right. Despite the PIC’s application of left brake and additional rudder inputs, the airplane continued to veer right, exited the runway, and struck a runway light, taxiway light and taxiway sign.

Postaccident examination of the airplane revealed that the right stub wing bulkhead was substantially damaged. The airplane has been retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	SHORT BROTHERS	Registration:	N163Z
Model/Series:	SD3-60 SHERPA	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	Certificate of authorization or waiver (COA)
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KHRF,3645 ft msl	Observation Time:	12:15 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	10°C /-8°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / , 150°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.05 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Missoula, MT (MSO)	Destination:	Missoula, MT (MSO)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	3 None	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:		Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	3 None	Latitude, Longitude:	46.26,-114.12

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Blocher, Kristyn
Additional Participating Persons:	Samuel Eidt; Federal Aviation Administration; Helena, MT
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.