



SERVICE BULLETIN 00079

Date Released:	March 19, 2026
Date Effective:	March 19, 2026
Subject:	Emergency Egress
Affected Models:	All RV Aircraft
Required Action:	Purchase and install an emergency egress hammer. Develop a better understanding of emergency procedures in your aircraft.
Time of Compliance:	Before further flight
Supersedes Notice:	None
Labor Required / SLSA Warranty Allowance:	Not Applicable
Level of Certification:	Not Applicable

Synopsis:

One of the realities of aviation is that emergencies will happen. Since the probability is small, many people avoid thinking about or preparing for emergencies. Preparation may mean the difference between life and death. The following service bulletin addresses a key aspect of emergency egress that may make a difference.

Materials Required:

The following materials are required to complete the steps necessary to achieve compliance with this Service Bulletin:

Purchase Part no. [TOOL-00117-001 Emergency Egress Hammer](#)

NOTE: If purchasing a hammer other than specified, ensure that the tool also has provision to cut seat belts.

CAUTION: There are many other types of egress tools available which have not been tested by Van's Aircraft. Many aftermarket tools are meant for use with automotive glass not plexiglass. Spring-loaded plunger egress tools have little effect on plexiglass and should not be used in place of a hammer. Egress tools that are too lightweight are also not effective against plexiglass.



FIGURE 1: EXAMPLE HAMMER LOCATION (RV-12iS SHOWN)

Method of Compliance:

NOTE: An egress hammer must be carried in the aircraft at all times, within reach of each occupant. If the canopy cannot be opened: break out the canopy, windshield or rear window with an egress hammer, and crawl through the opening.

The aircraft is equipped with a canopy made of polycarbonate that is designed to shatter under load. The shape of the canopy is designed to be slightly proud of the roll bar, such that when the aircraft is overturned the canopy will shatter on impact. There are many variables that may prevent the canopy from shattering. Be prepared to use an egress hammer to break or enlarge an opening in the canopy to exit the aircraft. If the canopy does not break when striking it in one spot, choose another location.

WARNING: At one time an aftermarket company promoted the use of Lexan canopies because they were easier to install (they were much less prone to cracking when drilled). Do not use Lexan for primary cabin transparencies! Lexan will not shatter in a flip over accident and will not shatter or crack when impacted with most egress tools.

Step 1: Install an egress hammer within reach of the pilot and passenger for side-by-side models. For the RV-10 install two hammers, one for the forward two occupants and another for the two occupants in the rear. For the tandem RV-4 or RV-8, install two hammers, one for the front occupant and another for the rear occupant.

Step 2: Ensure that the installation and retention of the egress hammer meets the design requirement of the standard listed below. Under the loads below the hammer shall remain in the retained condition. To determine the load in each direction, take the weight of the hammer and multiply by the g factors for each direction below.

FAR 23.561(b)(3) The items of mass within the cabin that could injure an occupant experience the static inertia loads corresponding to the following ultimate load factors-

- (i) Upward, 3.0g;
- (ii) Forward, 18.0g; and
- (iii) Sideward, 4.5g.

Step 3: Make a logbook entry indicating compliance with this service document per the requirements of the controlling authority/agency.

Place a copy of this notification in the back of the maintenance manual for your aircraft. Add the name and date of the service information to the Addendum Documents List at the front of the Maintenance Manual.

If you are no longer in possession of this aircraft, please forward this information to the present owner/operator and immediately notify Van's Aircraft, Inc. via email at registrations@vansaircraft.com.

Information regarding establishing/transferring aircraft ownership, registration and licensing is available at: <https://www.vansaircraft.com/qr/transfer-of-ownership/>