



The National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety
Central Region
Memorandum for the Record
Engine, Airframe, and Fuel
System Examination Findings
CEN20LA170
Hallettsville, Texas
April 30, 2020

The FAA inspector who examined the airplane at the accident site provided the following information to the NTSB IIC.

- The airplane was found upright in a field with the nose landing gear collapsed. Buckling of the underside of the fuselage, between the engine firewall, nose landing gear mount, and wings showed substantial damage.
- The right-wing fuel tank was found nearly empty. The header fuel tank was about 2/3 full. The left-wing fuel tank was almost full.
- Unidentified contamination was found in a fuel sample taken from the left-wing fuel tank. The fuel selector was found in the left tank position.
- The carburetor heat knob in the cockpit was not engaged.
- The carburetor and gascolator/sediment bowl were removed. An unmeasured amount of sediment and murky fuel was present in the bowl. The carburetor was heavily soiled.
- Engine drive continuity was confirmed. Intake and exhaust valve functionality was confirmed. Cylinder compression was confirmed. No mechanical anomalies were found with the engine.
- Lower #1 and #4 spark plugs were removed. The plugs were fouled, and carbon bridged.

A fuel sample was taken from the source where the pilot refueled last (Uvalde, Texas). The fuel sample did not show any contaminants.

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