



Record of Conversation

Dan Baker
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Date: 3/31/21
Subject: CEN21LA167, N3953N
Person Interviewed: Clyde Weaver

Mr. Weaver was the pilot of a Beech BE-35 airplane, N3953N, when it was involved in an accident at Bridgeport Municipal Airport (XBP), TX, on March 26, 2021.

Mr. Weaver stated the purpose of the flight was his biannual flight review, and the CFI was Mr. Parks. They had flown to XBP from Hicks Airport and had "topped off the tanks" with fuel at XBP and there was 60 gallons of fuel onboard when they took off. They performed a simulated engine failure on takeoff and were performing a practice emergency landing at XBP. As he turned base, he felt a severe downdraft. He did not recall what happened after that. He stated they simulated the engine failure and did not shut down the engine. He stated the sky conditions were clear and the wind was from 140-150 at 10 knots.

Mr. Weaver stated the airplane was current on its annual inspection and the engine had accumulated about 350 hours since being rebuilt.

END.



Record of Conversation

Joshua Lindberg
Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Date: 7/22/21
Subject: CEN21LA167, N3953N
Person Interviewed: Clyde Weaver

Mr. Weaver was the pilot of a Beech BE-35 airplane, N3953N, when it was involved in an accident at Bridgeport Municipal Airport (XBP), TX, on March 26, 2021.

He confirmed that the purpose of the flight was his biannual flight review with CFI Tom Parks. They had 60 gallons of fuel onboard before the flight. They performed a simulated engine failure on takeoff and were performing a practice emergency landing at XBP. As he turned base to final, he felt a severe downdraft. He did not remember what happened after that. He stated that during the simulated failure he pulled the throttle back to idle.

The airplane was previously sold to Mr. Lanny Defoor for scrap and salvage.

END.



Record of Conversation

Joshua Lindberg
Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Date: 7/22/21

Subject: CEN21LA167, N3953N

Person Interviewed: Tom Parks, CFI

Mr. Parks was the CFI for a Beech BE-35 airplane, N3953N, when it was involved in an accident at Bridgeport Municipal Airport (XBP), TX, on March 26, 2021.

He stated that they bought fuel at the XBP self-serve pump and topped off with 60 gallons. He helped the pilot set the fuel totalizer and that's the last thing he remembers. He does not remember a simulated engine failure or the intent to complete one after takeoff. He has been a professional pilot for 53 years and would never complete a simulated engine failure immediately after takeoff. He knows that would have been an "impossible turn" (per recent AOPA video) and not safe. However, he would more likely complete a simulated engine failure after reaching a spot in the pattern abeam the touch down point and would want 800 to 1,000 ft of altitude. He cannot refute the pilot's recollection because he does not have any memory of the accident, but he does not believe they would have been conducting a simulated engine failure immediately after takeoff.

END.



Record of Conversation

Dan Baker
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Date: 4/1/21
Subject: CEN21LA167, N3953N
Person Interviewed: Merle Scherr

Mr. Scherr witnessed the accident involving a Beech BE-35 airplane, N3953N, at Bridgeport Municipal Airport (XBP), TX, on March 26, 2021.

Mr. Scherr said he was traveling eastbound on highway 380 and had just crossed the bridge over Lake Bridgeport when he saw the accident airplane traveling south-southwest. He said the airplane was low and the nose was up in the air. The tail of the airplane barely cleared the power lines along the road, which he estimated to be 20 ft high. After crossing the road the airplane nose lifted higher and the airplane banked to the right. The right wing hit trees and the airplane descended out of sight. He said his radio was on and he could not hear the airplane as it passed over him on the road. He did not recall if the propeller was turning.

Mr. Scherr stopped and approached the airplane. He saw smoke coming from the wreckage so he grabbed a fire extinguisher. He saw a small fire in the engine compartment and he extinguished it. He saw "fuel pouring out" of a line in the front right side of the fuselage and sprayed it with the extinguisher. Mr. Scherr said the "passenger" was in a lot of pain and did not say anything, and the person on the "driver's side" said 2-3 times that "it's still powered on."

Mr. Scherr said he had just checked the weather and wind was reported from the east at roughly 15 mph. He said the wind was blowing and gusting when he was outside at the accident site.

END.



Record of Conversation

Dan Baker
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Date: 4/1/21
Subject: CEN21LA167, N3953N
Person Interviewed: Charlotte Perkins, witness

Ms. Perkins witnessed the accident involving a Beech BE-35 airplane, N3953N, at Bridgeport Municipal Airport (XBP), TX, on March 26, 2021.

Ms. Perkins said she was traveling east on highway 380 when she saw the airplane from about ¼ mile away. She said she pulled over to the side of the road to watch because it did not look normal. The airplane was descending from the north and appeared to be slow. It pulled up right before it hit the trees, then flipped and hit the ground upright.

Ms. Perkins said the weather was clear and she did not recall the wind blowing very hard, but she said she was from Lubbock where the wind really blew.

END.