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Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: March 15, 2023
Subject: CEN22LA438, N812TD
Contact: Timothy Wells, FAA FSDO

Initial information provided by the Oklahoma State Patrol to the FAA was that N812TD had caught fire while on the downwind leg to 2K9 Airport. The pilot performed an emergency landing to a pasture near the airport and evacuated the burning airplane. The pilot was the sole occupant.

FAA Inspector Timothy Wells provided the following information concerning N812TD. The pilot reported that after departing from 2K9 on runway 35, he turned right and noticed flames coming from under the engine cowling. The pilot maneuvered the airplane into the downwind pattern to return to the runway. While on the downwind leg, the pilot determined that the airplane would not reach the runway and performed an off-field landing just short of the runway. The airplane continued to burn and was subsequently engulfed entirely leaving only the core of the engine and firewall.

Inspector Wells reported there were an estimated 100 hours on the airframe at the time of the accident.

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