

John Brannen
Senior Air Safety Investigator
AS-CEN

Date: 02-08-2023

Subject: CEN23LA024

Contact: Bernard Ortman

Spoke with Mr. Ortman via telephone. He confirmed that he was the pilot of N9244A, A Cessna 170A that was involved in an accident on November 2, 2022, near Hardin, TX. He said that he was landing to the north on his friend's private airstrip and didn't see wires that crossed the south end of the runway from east to west. The airplane's tailwheel caught the wires and he continued and landed on the airstrip but veered off the left side of the runway. The airplane had a slice in the rudder that was apparently caused by the wire. He said there were no mechanical problems with the airplane prior to the accident. He added that the airstrip owner had already purchased orange balls to mount on the wires to aid visibility but had been unable to get the power company to install them. He had attempted to have the power company install them on several occasions, but they had not done it yet. After the accident, when the power company was repairing the damaged wires, they installed the orange balls. I asked Mr. Ortman to estimate his total time and time in type and he said he had about 15000 total hours and 200 in the Cessna 170. He also said he had a BFR in February 2022 but could be off plus or minus one month.