



Crosby Flying Services, LLC

[REDACTED]
Burnet, TX 78611
[REDACTED]

September 18, 2024

(UPDATED)

N498TB Accident Investigation Findings Accomplished by Crosby Flying Services (KBMQ)

Dear Alex,

The following is a report of our findings following the accident of N498TB located at San Saba County Municipal Airport.

Upon arrival at the aircraft's location, one of the first things we noticed was the lack of engine oil present on the engine, firewall, cowling, aircraft skin, windscreen or any surrounding areas. From our experiences as mechanics, it takes very little oil to create a disastrous mess on any aircraft. With the number of holes in the engine, combined with it being a 10-quart sump, we expected the entire area to be covered in oil. This was not the case. We also noticed the propeller only had one blade bent, indicating the engine was not under power during the landing.

During the disassembly of the engine and all the associated components, it was noted immediately that the engine was completely seized. All accessories were in good condition including the intake, exhaust, v-band clamp and turbocharger and all seemed to be operating normally. Upon removal of the oil pan, we found it completely full of metal pieces from the inside of the engine. During removal of cylinders, we found that 5 of the 6 piston connecting rods had been broken off the crankshaft. All gearing throughout the engine was destroyed. It was obvious to us that the engine had gotten extremely hot, most likely due to oil starvation. Inspection of the oil pump did not reveal any blockages or lack of operation. The worst of the damage seemed to occur toward the back of the engine which is typically the area that tends to be a little hotter due to lack of ram-air. We also inspected the oil filter and adapter assembly. The filter element was full of metal indicating the oil that was in the engine was circulating. We inspected all counterweight circlips attached to the crankshaft. All were installed and no discrepancies were found.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] There was minimal oil on the exterior of the engine and the inside of the cowlings were dry to the touch. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

During the entirety of the disassembly, a representative of the FAA and NTSB were present and took photographs of the engine and its associated components. Please let me know if you have any questions pertaining to this matter. I am happy to further assist you during the investigation.

Sincerely,

Nicholas Bownds