

John Brannen
Senior ASI
AS-CEN

Date: January 9, 2026

Subject: CEN26LA077

Contact: [REDACTED] - Pilot of N5174C

Spoke with Mr. [REDACTED] regarding the accident involving N5174C. He told me that he was taking off from a private dirt strip near LaCasa, Texas. He said the dirt runway is lined by trees and that the wind was favoring a departure to the south. He estimated the wind to be about 10 kts. He said the takeoff went normally but once he climbed above the treetops (about 50 ft. AGL), the airplane stopped accelerating and he could no longer climb. The airplane drifted to the left, the left wing dropped, and the airplane impacted trees next to the runway. When asked if there were any mechanical problems with the airplane that contributed to the accident, he said there were none and he stated that he believed that the accident was the result of experiencing windshear. He said the wind was a quartering headwind during the takeoff roll but switched to a quartering tailwind once above the trees.

I verified Mr. [REDACTED] e-mail address and told him I would be e-mailing a report form for him to complete.