



Michael J. Hodges
Investigator-In-Charge
Office of Aviation Safety, Central Regional Office

Date: January 14, 2026

Subject: N172BX (Cessna 172G Airplane) - Accident

Contact: [REDACTED], Airplane Owner and Pilot

The NTSB investigator-in-charge spoke with [REDACTED] on the telephone about the accident.

The airplane is kept outside on the ramp at the Taylor Municipal Airport (T74), Taylor, Texas, year-round. T74 is the pilot's home base.

The airplane was previously modified via a FAA-approved supplemental type certificate to use unleaded automotive gasoline; however, the airplane was operating with 100 low lead fuel at the time of the accident. He has not used unleaded automotive gasoline in the airplane in years.

The purpose of the local area flight was to practice flight maneuvers.

During the preflight inspection before the flight, he obtained fuel samples from the two wing fuel tanks (on the bottom of both wings) and the fuel strainer (on the bottom of the fuselage). He observed that just the normal gunk, such as little pieces of dirt, came out during this process. There were no other concerns noted during the preflight inspection.

At the start of the flight, each wing fuel tank was about half full. At the time of the accident, each wing fuel tank was about a quarter full.

At the time of the total loss of engine power, the fuel tank selector was set to both fuel tanks. When the total loss of engine power occurred, he did not switch the fuel tanks, as the forced landing occurred very quickly.

He did not use the carburetor heat system during the flight, as it was a warm day, and he felt it wasn't needed.

The airplane was recovered from the steep ditch by a local towing company on 12/27/2025. The airplane sat in the water for one day before it was recovered. The freshwater water in the steep ditch was about 4-5 feet deep. The engine, the propeller, and the cockpit were submerged in water. The wings were not submerged in the water.

The airplane does not have insurance coverage.

*** Nothing Follows ***