

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety

Washington, DC 20594



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EASTERN REGION AVIATION

November 7, 2023

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A. ACCIDENT

Location: Hawkinsville, Georgia
Date: October 3, 2023
Time: 1800
Airplane: Champion 7FC

B. EASTERN REGION AVIATION

IIC Eric Alleyne
NTSB
Atlanta, Georgia

C. SUMMARY

According to the pilot, he was returning to his home base airport from a short cross-country flight. About halfway through the flight, he said that the engine started to lose power. After checking all his instruments and performing everything he could to regain full power, he was unsuccessful. He decided to make an emergency landing in a field and during the landing roll the airplane collided with a stump and flipped over inverted.

D. FINDINGS

1.1 Fuel/Fuel System

During an attempt to start the engine a leaking fuel line to the carburetor was discovered. This line was further found to be brittle and leaking from the braided outer casing. It was also noted that after noting the leaking fuel line, fuel staining was discovered within the engine cowling. The faulty fuel line was replaced with a serviceable fuel line and the engine was started. The engine ran continuously without any issues or anomalies.

The maintenance logbooks were reviewed to find the service history on the fuel line. After review, no entries were discovered that showed the replacement of the fuel line. The last inspection entry in the airframe logbook, was an annual inspection dated April 4, 2023, that noted an inspection of the wing fuel tanks and plumbing.

The fuel line did not fall under the Life Limited Part designation of FAR part 14 CFR 43.10, as any part for which a mandatory replacement limit is specified in the type design.

2.0 Engine Examination

During the preparation, fuel staining was observed inside the engine cowling. An inspection revealed that the engine, when connected to a fuel source, was capable of operating. No anomalies were noted during the examination, and the decision was made to proceed with an engine test run.