

Robert Gretz
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: **03/13/2024**

Subject: **ERA24LA134**

Contact: **Danny Gregory, FAA LOU FSDO**

During a telephone conversation, Mr. Gregory stated that the airplane's transponder was in the off position, and he is not sure where the flight originated, but thinks it was destined for the pilot's home airport, OWB. Mr. Gregory further stated that the pilot's mobile phone automatically reported an accident to law enforcement at 2315 CST (the airplane's ELT did not activate). The sheriff's office responded to the reported address from the pilot's phone but did not see anything. The pilot's wife subsequently called the sheriff to report him overdue. The sheriff's officers returned during daylight hours and located the wreckage inverted, in a wooded area, about 250 yards from the road.

Mr. Gregory examined the wreckage on March 9th and observed it was oriented west. He noted that the wing fuel tanks were breached. He did not smell any fuel at the site; however, it had rained all night prior to Mr. Gregory arriving. One propeller blade remained undamaged, and the other was bent at the tip. He recovered four unopened White Claw hard seltzers, and one open Six West IPA can, and two unopened Six West IPA cans. The inspector added that the pilot was in the left seat and the seats were not equipped with shoulder harnesses. He recovered a Sentry ADS-B/GPS and will forward it to our lab.