

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety

Washington, DC 20594



ERA25LA157

WRECKAGE EXAMINATION SUMMARY

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A. ACCIDENT

Location: Lenoir, NC
Date: September 1, 2023
Time: 1345 EDT
Airplane: Beech E33

B. WRECKAGE EXAMINATION SUMMARY

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National Transportation Safety Board
Daytona Beach, FL

Party Member Mike Everhart FAA

C. SUMMARY

On February 25, 2025, about 1345 eastern standard time, a Beech E33, N7697N, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Lenoir, North Carolina. The pilot was not injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 personal flight.

D. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

1.0 Accident Site

Not observed

2.0 Airframe Examination

NA

3.0 Engine Examination

The engine exam was performed by an A&P mechanic on site. His findings are as follows:

I found while removing the #6 cylinder on N7697N was multiple loose items such as #6 top spark plug and #6 EGT probe. The engine case had split open where the #6 cylinder studs come out causing them to move for and aft just enough to get the studs in a bind against the cylinder which greatly increased the difficulty of sliding the cylinder off. The oil filter adapter housing gasket appeared to have failed and split open dumping all the oil overboard. I found multiple cracks in the LH exhaust after removal and the baffling inside the muffler was missing. The engine did not appear to have been washed down or cleaned after the annual inspection/cylinder installation. Part of the cowling had been trimmed to allow easier removal of the rocker arm shaft. The pushrod tub gaskets and other attributing gaskets appeared to have replaced with new when the cylinder was installed. None of the cylinder hold down nuts were loose.

Submitted by:

Daniel Boggs
Air Safety Investigator