



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Central Region - Denver, Colorado

Record of Telephone Conversation

Person Interviewed: Howard Wharton
Subject: – CEN20CA236
Date: 6/23/2020

Mr. Wharton was the pilot of N244HW, a Bellanca 1730A airplane when it was involved in an accident near Martinton, IL, on 6/19/20.

During the telephone conversation Mr. Wharton stated he was flying from an airport south of St. Louis to an airport near his home in Michigan. He was not specific on where he took off from or the airport he was going to. He said the airplane held 68 gallons of fuel and burned 19 gph. He was airborne about 3 hrs and his gas gauges were nearing empty. He could not find an airport so he elected to land on a nearby gravel road. During landing the airplane went off the side of the road into a ditch. He and his passenger were not injured.

Dan Baker
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator