



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Greer, SC	Accident Number:	ERA23LA342
Date & Time:	August 20, 2023, 12:00 Local	Registration:	N9360S
Aircraft:	Beech C23	Injuries:	2 Fatal
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Flight test		

On August 20, 2023, about 1200 eastern daylight time, a Beech C23 airplane, N9360S, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Greer, South Carolina. The private pilot and a passenger were fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 post-maintenance test flight.

According to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspectors, an annual inspection was recently completed on the airplane and the pilot and his mechanic were performing a post-maintenance test flight. A witness, who lived at the fly-in community where the airplane was maintained, reported that the airplane took off from runway 3 at Chandelle Airport (SC72), Greer, South Carolina. As the airplane passed his house, he heard a slight reduction in engine speed, followed by a slight increase in speed. The engine did not sputter or backfire. The airplane then turned toward the northwest and reached an altitude of about 500 ft above the ground. The witness then observed the left wing dip twice, level off, and the airplane descend as it turned to a westerly heading. The airplane descended below a tree line, and he then heard the airplane impact the ground.

FAA inspectors responded to the accident site and examined the wreckage. The wreckage was found upright, in an open field, about 1 mile north of SC72. There was no fire. The fuselage was buckled in several areas and the forward windscreen was broken. The left wing was partially separated aft, just outboard of the left wing fuel tank.

The wreckage was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Beech	Registration:	N9360S
Model/Series:	C23	Aircraft Category:	Airplane
Amateur Built:			
Operator:	On file	Operating Certificate(s) Held:	None
Operator Designator Code:			

Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Conditions at Accident Site:	VMC	Condition of Light:	Day
Observation Facility, Elevation:	KGSP,971 ft msl	Observation Time:	11:53 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	5 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	28°C /18°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ ,
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.22 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Greer, SC	Destination:	Greer, SC

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal	Latitude, Longitude:	34.83538,-82.14553 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Hicks, Ralph
Additional Participating Persons:	Neil Baker; FAA/CAE FSDO; Columbia, SC James Childers; Lycoming Engines; Williamsport, PA
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.