



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Bluff Dale, TX	Accident Number:	CEN24LA147
Date & Time:	April 4, 2024, 22:11 Local	Registration:	N8946
Aircraft:	Bellanca 7KCAB	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On April 4, 2024, at 22:11 central daylight time, a Bellanca 7KCAB, N8946, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near Bluff Dale, Texas. The pilot sustained minor injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

The pilot reported that he was on a night visual flight rule (VFR) cross country from Brownwood Regional Airport (BWD), Brownwood, Texas, to Granbury Regional Airport (GDJ), Granbury, Texas. He said that during the flight he saw flames coming from the oil access door on the upper right side of the engine cowling. The pilot shut off fuel to the engine and executed an emergency descent. He landed in a field 15 nautical miles southwest of GDJ. The pilot exited the airplane and the airplane continued to burn and was destroyed by the fire.

The airplane wreckage was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	Bellanca	Registration:	N8946
Model/Series:	7KCAB	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:	Night
Observation Facility, Elevation:	SEP,1321 ft msl	Observation Time:	22:15 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	8 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	20°C /5°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	/ ,
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.99 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Brownwood, TX (BWD)	Destination:	Granbury, TX (GDJ)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Destroyed
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	In-flight
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	32.31,-98.058 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Brannen, John
Additional Participating Persons:	Johnny Perez; Federal Aviation Administration: FSDO NTX; TX
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.