



Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Rutherfordton, NC	Accident Number:	ERA25LA007
Date & Time:	October 3, 2024, 17:30 Local	Registration:	N9117R
Aircraft:	North American Navion	Injuries:	2 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On October 03, 2024, about 1730 eastern daylight time, a North American Navion airplane, N9117R, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident at Rutherford County Airport / Marchman Field (FQD), Rutherfordton, North Carolina. The pilot and passenger sustained minor injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

The pilot reported that he departed Concord-Padgett Regional Airport (JQF), Concord, North Carolina and was destined for FQD. On final approach to runway 19 at FQD, the pilot heard a loud “pop” and felt heat coming from behind the pilot and copilot’s seats. As the airplane approached the runway threshold, the cabin filled with smoke, and fire was visible in the cabin. During the landing, the airplane’s nose gear collapsed, and the airplane came to rest on the runway. The inflight and postaccident fire consumed a majority of the airplane.

The wreckage was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	North American	Registration:	N9117R
Model/Series:	Navion	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:	KFQD,1078 ft msl	Observation Time:	17:25 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	0 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	26°C /17°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	7 knots / None, 200°
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.1 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	NONE
Departure Point:	Concord, NC (JQF)	Destination:	Rutherfordton, NC

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Fire:	Both in-flight and on-ground
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	35.42938,-81.935182 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Galbraith, Damian
Additional Participating Persons:	Edward Enriquez; FAA; Charlette, NC
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.