



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAILROAD



PIPELINE

Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

Location:	Gladewater, TX	Accident Number:	CEN25LA096
Date & Time:	February 17, 2025, 22:15 Local	Registration:	N26071
Aircraft:	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP. AA-5A	Injuries:	1 Minor
Flight Conducted Under:	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

On February 17, 2025, about 2215 central standard time, a Grumman AA-5A airplane, N26071, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Gladewater, Texas. The pilot sustained minor injuries. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

According to the pilot, the airplane engine lost partial power about 450 to 500 ft above ground level during the initial takeoff climb. The pilot immediately made a left turn back towards the airport and conducted a slow but controlled descent with the remaining engine power. He chose to continue the turn and performed a forced landing to the grass next to the runway which resulted in substantial damage to the left wing and empennage.

The pilot stated that he was ferrying the airplane to the Rusk County Airport (RFI) in Henderson, Texas, to have engine maintenance performed. The pilot further stated that the carburetor had been replaced about two weeks prior, and the airplane was experiencing a slight engine stumbling at full power and full mixture on subsequent flights.

Postaccident examination of the engine revealed that the carburetor inlet rubber duct between the airbox and carburetor was puckered inward at both the airbox outlet and carburetor inlet. The puckering of the duct was observed to be partially blocking the carburetor venturi.

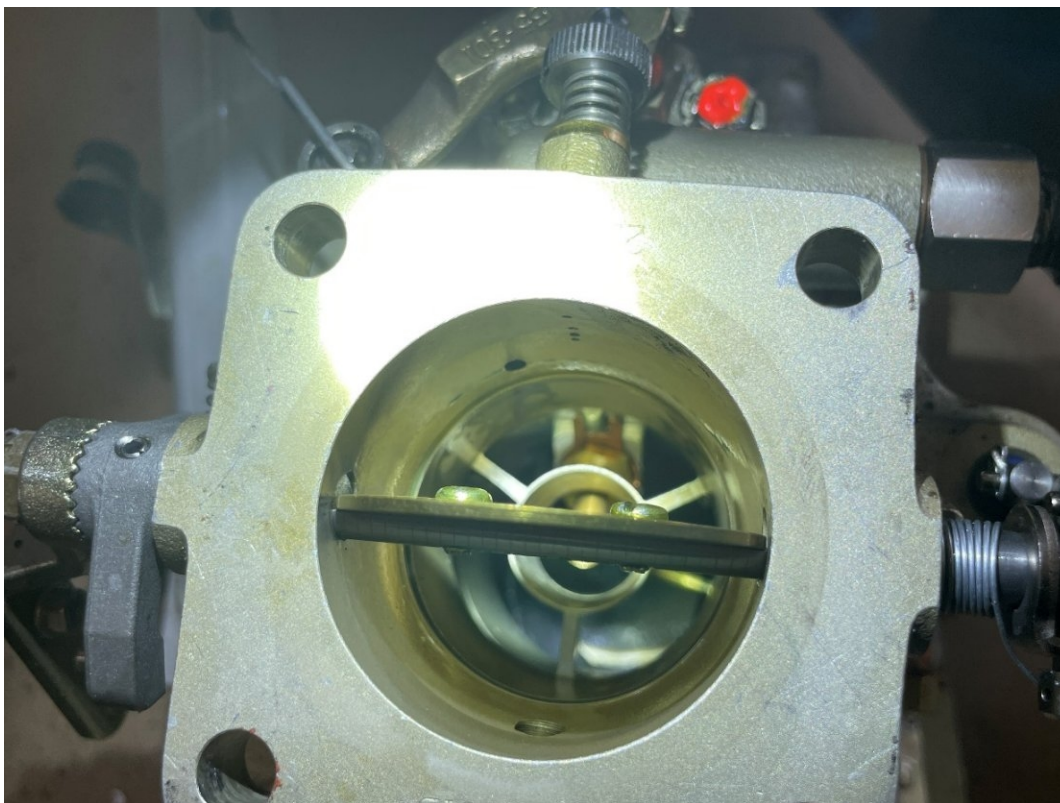


Figure 1. View through the carburetor.

The airplane was retained for further examination.

Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

Aircraft Make:	GRUMMAN AMERICAN AVN. CORP.	Registration:	N26071
Model/Series:	AA-5A	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:	KJXI, 415 ft msl	Observation Time:	22:12 Local
Distance from Accident Site:	10 Nautical Miles	Temperature/Dew Point:	6°C / 0°C
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Visibility:	10 miles
Altimeter Setting:	30.11 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	
Departure Point:	Gladewater, TX	Destination:	Henderson, TX (KRFI)

Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Minor	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	1 Minor	Latitude, Longitude:	32.529573,-94.972114 (est)

Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Finne, Andrew
Additional Participating Persons:	McDaniel, Lonni; FAA-FSDO; Irving, TX
Investigation Class:	Class 3
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.