



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	Woolsey, Georgia	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ATL07LA065
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 29, 2007, 15:50 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N1MQ
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Beech BE-58	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>		<b>Injuries:</b>	3 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

According to the pilot, while in cruise flight at 2,500, feet he felt a "thump" and observed black smoke or soot on the outer third of the aileron. He made an emergency descent to a landing at a private airport. Examination of the right wing found extensive fire damage concentrated in the center of the wing, with ballooning of the wing skin, and soot trailing over the right aileron. The source of fuel/fuel vapor, or the ignition source that started the fire could not be identified due to the extent of the fire damage.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: In-flight fire of the right wing for undetermined reasons.

## Findings

Occurrence #1: FIRE  
Phase of Operation: CRUISE - NORMAL

- Findings
1. WING - FIRE
  2. REASON FOR OCCURRENCE UNDETERMINED
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Occurrence #2: FORCED LANDING  
Phase of Operation: EMERGENCY DESCENT/LANDING

## Factual Information

On March 29, 2007, at 1550 eastern daylight time, a Beech BE-58, N1MQ, registered to Airway Partners LLC, operating as a 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 personal flight, experienced a right wing in-flight fire while on approach to the Spalding County Airport (6A2), Griffin, Georgia. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed, and no flight plan was filed. The airplane received substantial damage. The commercial pilot and two passengers reported no injuries. The flight departed Cobb County McCollum Airport (RYY), Marietta at 1530.

According to the pilot, while in cruise flight at 2,500 feet, he felt a "thump" and observed that the right wing had structural damage. He slowed the airplane to 120 knots to verify that he still had positive control of the ailerons. At that point he observed black smoke or soot on the outer third of the aileron, and believed that the wing was on fire at that time. He moved the right engine throttle to idle, feathered the propeller, and pulled the mixture to cut-off. He made an emergency descent to a landing at a private airport in Woolsey, Georgia. After landing, he and his passengers egressed the airplane and extinguish the fire on the right wing.

Examination of the right wing found extensive fire damage concentrated in the center of the wing, with ballooning of the wing skin, and soot trailing over the right aileron. Removal of the wing skin found heavy sooting within the wing cavity and molten aluminum. Also, observed were several pieces of fuel vent line, which had heat fractured into 3 to 4 inch pieces. No liquid fuel was observed and the fuel tank was not damaged. The source of fuel/fuel vapor, or the ignition source that started the fire could not be identified due to the extent of the fire damage.

### Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Commercial	<b>Age:</b>	37, Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land; Multi-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	Airplane	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Class 2 With waivers/limitations	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	March 1, 2006
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	January 1, 2006
<b>Flight Time:</b>	2278 hours (Total, all aircraft), 130 hours (Total, this make and model), 2058 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 46 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 19 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft), 2 hours (Last 24 hours, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Beech	<b>Registration:</b>	N1MQ
<b>Model/Series:</b>	BE-58	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>		<b>Amateur Built:</b>	
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Normal	<b>Serial Number:</b>	TH-731
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Retractable - Tricycle	<b>Seats:</b>	6
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	July 1, 2006 Annual	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	5400 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>	150 Hrs	<b>Engines:</b>	2 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	5270 Hrs as of last inspection	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Continental
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	IO-520C
<b>Registered Owner:</b>	Airway Partners LLC	<b>Rated Power:</b>	285 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	Richard B. Handley	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	Visual (VMC)	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	FFC,808 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	40 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	15:53 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	180°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Scattered / 8500 ft AGL	<b>Visibility</b>	6 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>		<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	/	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	0°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.19 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	27°C / 14°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Marietta, GA (RYY )	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	Griffin, GA (6A2 )	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:30 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	Rusty Airstrip 3RU	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	Grass/turf
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	810 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>	090	<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>	2750 ft / 120 ft	<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing;Full stop;Straight-in

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	In-flight
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	3 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	33.32611,-84.411666

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Wilson, Ralph
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Haywood Marshall; Atlanta FSDO; College Park, GA
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	August 28, 2008
<b>Last Revision Date:</b>	
<b>Investigation Class:</b>	<a href="#">Class</a>
<b>Note:</b>	
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=65555">https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=65555</a>

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