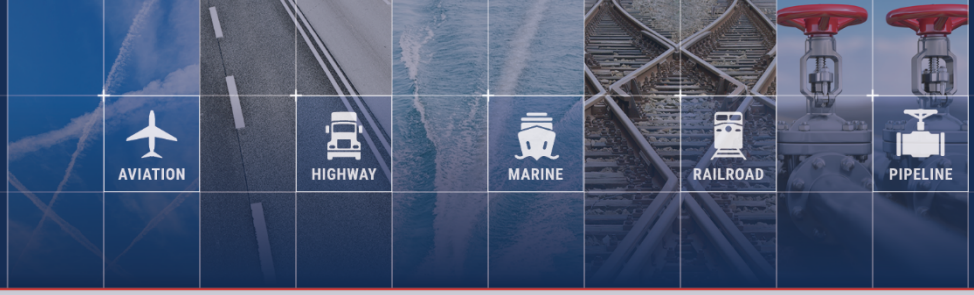


# Aviation Investigation Final Report

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Location:** | La Porte, Texas | **Accident Number:** | CEN10LA136 |
| **Date & Time:** | February 14, 2010, 16:00 Local | **Registration:** | N56347 |
| **Aircraft:** | Maule M-5-235C | **Aircraft Damage:** | Substantial |
| **Defining Event:** | Loss of engine power (total) | **Injuries:** | 1 None |
| **Flight Conducted Under:** | Part 91: General aviation - Personal | | |

## Analysis

The private pilot was returning from a short personal flight when the engine stopped producing power. The pilot was unable to maintain altitude and landed short of the runway and flipped over. The engine was test run using the airplane's existing fuel system. The engine started and ran through its entire powerband without hesitation. A functional test of the carburetor heat and both magnetos were normal, and all engine gauges indicated normal readings. No mechanical deficiencies were noted with the engine or the fuel system. The cause of the power loss could not be determined.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be: A loss of engine power for undetermined reasons.

### Findings

| | |
|---|---|
| **Not determined** | (general) - Unknown/Not determined |
| **Aircraft** | (general) - Failure |

# Factual Information

## History of Flight

| | |
|---|---|
| **Approach** | Loss of engine power (total) (Defining event) |

On February 14, 2010, at 1600 central standard time, N56347, a Maule M-5-235C, sustained substantial damage after a loss of engine power while returning to land at La Porte Municipal Airport (T41), La Porte, Texas. The private pilot/registered owner, and sole occupant, was not injured. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed for the local flight that was conducted under 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91.

According to the pilot, he departed on a local flight at 1550 and flew over the bay, which was about 2 miles away from the airport. Upon his return, the engine started to lose power and he was unable to make the runway. The airplane landed on soft/wet grass short of Runway 12 and subsequently flipped over. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the wing struts on both wings.

The engine was test run on March 29, 2010, under the supervision of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The run was conducted using the airplane's existing fuel system. The engine started and ran through its entire powerband without hesitation. A functional test of the carburetor heat and both magnetos were normal, and all engine gauges indicated normal readings. No mechanical deficiencies were noted with the engine or the fuel system.

Weather at Ellington Field (EFD), about 7 miles southwest of the accident site, at 1550, was reported as wind from 250 degrees at 8 knots, visibility 10 statute miles, clouds broken at 2,500 feet and 5,500 feet, temperature 20 degrees Celsius, dewpoint 10 degrees Celsius, and a barometric pressure setting 29.94 inches of Mercury.

## Pilot Information

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Certificate:** | Private | **Age:** | 56,Male |
| **Airplane Rating(s):** | Single-engine land; Single-engine sea | **Seat Occupied:** | Left |
| **Other Aircraft Rating(s):** | None | **Restraint Used:** | |
| **Instrument Rating(s):** | None | **Second Pilot Present:** | No |
| **Instructor Rating(s):** | None | **Toxicology Performed:** | No |
| **Medical Certification:** | Class 3 With waivers/limitations | **Last FAA Medical Exam:** | April 1, 2009 |
| **Occupational Pilot:** | No | **Last Flight Review or Equivalent:** | March 25, 2009 |
| **Flight Time:** | 1139 hours (Total, all aircraft), 242 hours (Total, this make and model), 22 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 11 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft) | | |

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Aircraft Make:** | Maule | **Registration:** | N56347 |
| **Model/Series:** | M-5-235C | **Aircraft Category:** | Airplane |
| **Year of Manufacture:** | | **Amateur Built:** | |
| **Airworthiness Certificate:** | Normal | **Serial Number:** | 7277C |
| **Landing Gear Type:** | Tailwheel | **Seats:** | 4 |
| **Date/Type of Last Inspection:** | June 25, 2009 Annual | **Certified Max Gross Wt.:** | |
| **Time Since Last Inspection:** | 73 Hrs | **Engines:** | 1 Reciprocating |
| **Airframe Total Time:** | | **Engine Manufacturer:** | LYCOMING |
| **ELT:** | Installed, not activated | **Engine Model/Series:** | O-540 SERIES |
| **Registered Owner:** | KINGSBURY RALPH E JR | **Rated Power:** | 250 Horsepower |
| **Operator:** | KINGSBURY RALPH E JR | **Operating Certificate(s) Held:** | None |

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Conditions at Accident Site:** | Visual (VMC) | **Condition of Light:** | Day |
| **Observation Facility, Elevation:** | EFD,32 ft msl | **Distance from Accident Site:** | 7 Nautical Miles |
| **Observation Time:** | 15:50 Local | **Direction from Accident Site:** | 210° |
| **Lowest Cloud Condition:** | | **Visibility** | 10 miles |
| **Lowest Ceiling:** | Broken / 2500 ft AGL | **Visibility (RVR):** | |
| **Wind Speed/Gusts:** | 8 knots / None | **Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:** | / |
| **Wind Direction:** | 250° | **Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:** | / |
| **Altimeter Setting:** | 29.94 inches Hg | **Temperature/Dew Point:** | 20°C / 10°C |
| **Precipitation and Obscuration:** | | | |
| **Departure Point:** | La Porte, TX (T41 ) | **Type of Flight Plan Filed:** | Unknown |
| **Destination:** | La Porte, TX (T41 ) | **Type of Clearance:** | VFR |
| **Departure Time:** | 15:30 Local | **Type of Airspace:** | |

## Airport Information

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Airport:** | La Porte Municipal T41 | **Runway Surface Type:** | Grass/turf |
| **Airport Elevation:** | 25 ft msl | **Runway Surface Condition:** | Dry |
| **Runway Used:** | 12 | **IFR Approach:** | None |
| **Runway Length/Width:** | 4165 ft / 75 ft | **VFR Approach/Landing:** | Forced landing;Traffic pattern |

## Wreckage and Impact Information

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Crew Injuries:** | 1 None | **Aircraft Damage:** | Substantial |
| **Passenger Injuries:** | | **Aircraft Fire:** | None |
| **Ground Injuries:** | N/A | **Aircraft Explosion:** | None |
| **Total Injuries:** | 1 None | **Latitude, Longitude:** | 29.668056,-95.064163(est) |

## Administrative Information

| | |
|---|---|
| **Investigator In Charge (IIC):** | Yeager, Leah |
| **Additional Participating Persons:** | Randy Burke; FAA/FSDO; Houston, TX |
| **Original Publish Date:** | July 22, 2010 |
| **Last Revision Date:** | |
| **Investigation Class:** | Class |
| **Note:** | |
| **Investigation Docket:** | https://data.ntsb.gov/Docket?ProjectID=75439 |