



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

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<b>Location:</b>	French Lick, IN	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA22FA386
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	August 27, 2022, 20:58 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N8741A
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Beech B35	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

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On August 27, 2022, about 2058 eastern daylight time, a Beech B-35, N8741A, was destroyed when it was involved in an accident near French Lick, Indiana. The airline transport pilot was fatally injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

According to a family member, the pilot had flown to Fischer's Airport (6LL6), New Memphis, Illinois, to attend a family gathering on the day of the accident. He returned to the airport about 1830 for the flight back to French Lick Municipal Airport (FRH), French Lick, Indiana.

Preliminary radar data tracked the airplane departing 6LL6 about 1950, heading east towards FRH. As the airplane approached FRH, it made a right turn flying south toward the departure end of runway 28, then turned right flying on the south side of runway 08/26 before crossing at midfield for a left circling approach to runway 08.

Airport surveillance video captured the airplane touch down on runway 08 then depart the runway surface to the left before becoming airborne and impacting trees just outside of the perimeter fence. Witness marks on the runway showed the left main wheel touched down 1,036 ft past the runway threshold. Then, 29 ft later the nose gear and right main gear touched down and remained on the runway for 165 ft until the airplane exited the runway onto the grass. Once in the grass the witness marks extended 109 ft on a heading of 055° before the airplane became airborne and subsequently impacted trees north of the perimeter fence.

The airplane was located in a wooded area on a magnetic heading of 180° at an elevation of 768 ft. The right wing impacted a tree about midspan, the airplane then impacted terrain and came to rest upright. All components of the airplane were accounted for at the accident site. A postimpact fire consumed the cabin, most of the fuselage and the inboard portion of both wings by the fuel tanks.

Examination of the wreckage revealed extensive thermal damage with the engine thermally separated from the airframe near the firewall. Control cable continuity was established for all flight controls from

the control surface to the cockpit. The aileron balance cable and elevator trim tab nose up cable exhibited thermal damage. The engine was removed from the airframe but could not be rotated. The pressure carburetor, accessory housing, oil sump, fuel pump and vacuum pump were consumed by fire. The remaining engine components that were accounted for showed signs of thermal damage. Both propeller blades were found at the accident site; one blade was curled aft at the tip and remained secure in the hub. The second propeller blade was separated from the hub and exhibited S-bending at the outer 1/3 of the blade.

### Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Beech	<b>Registration:</b>	N8741A
<b>Model/Series:</b>	B35	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Amateur Built:</b>			
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<b>Operating Certificate(s) Held:</b>	None
<b>Operator Designator Code:</b>			

### Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

<b>Conditions at Accident Site:</b>	VMC	<b>Condition of Light:</b>	Night
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	HNB,529 ft msl	<b>Observation Time:</b>	21:56 Local
<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	21 Nautical Miles	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	25° C /22° C
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:</b>	/ ,
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility:</b>	10 miles
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	29.96 inches Hg	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Departure Point:</b>	New Memphis, IL (6LL6)	<b>Destination:</b>	French Lick, IN

### Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Destroyed
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	On-ground
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Fatal	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	38.506111,-86.640833

## Administrative Information

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**Investigator In Charge (IIC):** Wentz, Peter

**Additional Participating Persons:** Jennifer Barclay; Textron Aviation Inc; Wichita  
Kurt Gibson; Textron Aviation Inc; Wichita, KS  
Louis Soto; FAA-FSDO; Indianapolis, IN  
Christopher Johnson; FAA-FSDO; Indianapolis, IN

**Note:**