



# Aviation Investigation Final Report

<b>Location:</b>	CLEBURNE, Texas	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN18LA124
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	March 14, 2018, 16:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N118RG
<b>Aircraft:</b>	White THORPE T 18	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Defining Event:</b>	Loss of engine power (total)	<b>Injuries:</b>	1 Serious
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

## Analysis

The private pilot reported that the engine was running roughly after he departed on the local flight; after troubleshooting to no avail, he decided to return to the airport. He stated that he "mistakenly landed in a pasture, short of the runway," and the airplane struck a tree. Although the pilot reported that the fuel line was not feeding fuel to the engine, he also reported that he believed he ran out of fuel; examination of the airplane revealed no evidence of fuel. Because of the pilot's belief that he ran out of fuel and the lack of evidence of fuel at the accident site, it is likely that the engine lost power due to fuel exhaustion.

## Probable Cause and Findings

The National Transportation Safety Board determines the probable cause(s) of this accident to be:

The loss of engine power due to fuel exhaustion.

## Findings

<b>Aircraft</b>	(general) - Failure
<b>Aircraft</b>	Fuel - Fluid level
<b>Personnel issues</b>	Aircraft control - Pilot
<b>Environmental issues</b>	Tree(s) - Contributed to outcome

# Factual Information

## History of Flight

Enroute-cruise	Loss of engine power (total) (Defining event)
Landing	Collision with terr/obj (non-CFIT)
Landing	Off-field or emergency landing

On March 14, 2018, about 1600 central daylight time, a White Thorpe T-18 airplane, N118RG, impacted a tree and terrain during a forced landing following an inflight loss of engine power near Cleburne, Texas. The pilot sustained serious injuries. The airplane was substantially damaged during the impact. The airplane was registered to and operated by the pilot as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight. Day visual meteorological conditions prevailed in the area about the time of the accident, and the flight was not operated on a flight plan. The local flight originated from the Blackwood Airpark, near Cleburne, Texas, at 1545.

According to the pilot's accident report, the flight departed to the north from the airport. The engine was running rough while he was flying northbound. The pilot started troubleshooting the roughness and decided to return to the airport. He stated, "I mistakenly landed in a pasture, short of the runway, with [the] plane coming to rest after hitting a tree." The pilot reported to the Texas Department of Public Safety Officer at the scene that the fuel line was not feeding through, and later reported to a Federal Aviation Inspector (FAA) that he believed he ran out of fuel. The FAA inspector examined the airplane at the scene. There was no evidence of fuel. The engine had been pulled away from the fuselage. Due to the extent of the damage, the fuel system and engine were not tested.

There was no record that an annual inspection of the airplane was conducted recently. The pilot reported the last annual inspection was on May 17, 2011. The pilot reported that he did not have a current flight review and did not know the date of his last medical certificate.

## Pilot Information

<b>Certificate:</b>	Private	<b>Age:</b>	79,Male
<b>Airplane Rating(s):</b>	Single-engine land	<b>Seat Occupied:</b>	Left
<b>Other Aircraft Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Restraint Used:</b>	3-point
<b>Instrument Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Second Pilot Present:</b>	No
<b>Instructor Rating(s):</b>	None	<b>Toxicology Performed:</b>	No
<b>Medical Certification:</b>	Unknown Unknown	<b>Last FAA Medical Exam:</b>	
<b>Occupational Pilot:</b>	No	<b>Last Flight Review or Equivalent:</b>	
<b>Flight Time:</b>	780.9 hours (Total, all aircraft), 5.2 hours (Total, this make and model), 780.9 hours (Pilot In Command, all aircraft), 0.2 hours (Last 90 days, all aircraft), 0.2 hours (Last 30 days, all aircraft)		

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	White	<b>Registration:</b>	N118RG
<b>Model/Series:</b>	THORPE T 18	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Year of Manufacture:</b>	2008	<b>Amateur Built:</b>	Yes
<b>Airworthiness Certificate:</b>	Experimental (Special)	<b>Serial Number:</b>	001
<b>Landing Gear Type:</b>	Tailwheel	<b>Seats:</b>	2
<b>Date/Type of Last Inspection:</b>	May 17, 2011 Unknown	<b>Certified Max Gross Wt.:</b>	1600 lbs
<b>Time Since Last Inspection:</b>		<b>Engines:</b>	1 Reciprocating
<b>Airframe Total Time:</b>	70 Hrs at time of accident	<b>Engine Manufacturer:</b>	Lycoming
<b>ELT:</b>	Installed, not activated	<b>Engine Model/Series:</b>	O-320-E2D
<b>Registered Owner:</b>		<b>Rated Power:</b>	150 Horsepower
<b>Operator:</b>	On file	<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>	KCPT,854 ft msl	<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	4 Nautical Miles
<b>Observation Time:</b>	16:35 Local	<b>Direction from Accident Site:</b>	214°
<b>Lowest Cloud Condition:</b>	Clear	<b>Visibility</b>	9 miles
<b>Lowest Ceiling:</b>	None	<b>Visibility (RVR):</b>	
<b>Wind Speed/Gusts:</b>	6 knots / 12 knots	<b>Turbulence Type Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Wind Direction:</b>	100°	<b>Turbulence Severity Forecast/Actual:</b>	/
<b>Altimeter Setting:</b>	30.17 inches Hg	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	20°C / -6°C
<b>Precipitation and Obscuration:</b>	No Obscuration; No Precipitation		
<b>Departure Point:</b>	CLEBURNE, TX (TX46)	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Destination:</b>	CLEBURNE, TX (TX46)	<b>Type of Clearance:</b>	None
<b>Departure Time:</b>	15:45 Local	<b>Type of Airspace:</b>	

## Airport Information

<b>Airport:</b>	BLACKWOOD AIRPARK TX46	<b>Runway Surface Type:</b>	
<b>Airport Elevation:</b>	835 ft msl	<b>Runway Surface Condition:</b>	Dry
<b>Runway Used:</b>		<b>IFR Approach:</b>	None
<b>Runway Length/Width:</b>		<b>VFR Approach/Landing:</b>	Forced landing

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>	N/A	<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	1 Serious	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	32.415554,-97.384162(est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Malinowski, Edward
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Greg P Sheehan; Federal Aviation Administration; Irving, TX
<b>Original Publish Date:</b>	November 19, 2019
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.
<b>Investigation Docket:</b>	<a href="https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=96889">https://data.nts.gov/Docket?ProjectID=96889</a>

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