



# Aviation Investigation Preliminary Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Rutledge, TN	<b>Accident Number:</b>	ERA23LA361
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	September 2, 2023, 11:00 Local	<b>Registration:</b>	N5431U
<b>Aircraft:</b>	Beech V35	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 None
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General aviation - Personal		

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On September 2, 2023, about 1100 eastern daylight time, a Beech V35 airplane, N5431U, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Rutledge, Tennessee. The airline transport pilot and one passenger were not injured. The airplane was operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

The pilot reported that the flight departed Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge Airport (GKT), Sevierville, Tennessee about 1045. The pilot proceeded northbound toward his destination, climbing to 2,500 ft mean sea level. About 15 minutes into the flight, over a forested area, the engine made a “loud bang” and started running rough. As he turned to a southerly heading and on open field, the engine seized. Unable to land in the open field, he performed a forced landing into some trees. The wreckage came to rest inverted, and the pilot and passenger were met by first responders.

FAA inspectors responded to the accident site and examined the wreckage. The wreckage was found inverted, in a wooded area. There was no fire. The fuselage, wings, and empennage were substantially damaged. The external surfaces of the fuselage were covered with engine oil.

The wreckage was retained for further examination.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

<b>Aircraft Make:</b>	Beech	<b>Registration:</b>	N5431U
<b>Model/Series:</b>	V35	<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>	Day
<b>Observation Facility, Elevation:</b>	KDKX,833 ft msl	<b>Observation Time:</b>	10:55 Local
<b>Distance from Accident Site:</b>	29 Nautical Miles	<b>Temperature/Dew Point:</b>	25°C /18°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>	30.27 inches Hg	<b>Type of Flight Plan Filed:</b>	None
<b>Departure Point:</b>	Sevierville, TN (GKT)	<b>Destination:</b>	Harlan, KY (I35)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

<b>Crew Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Damage:</b>	Substantial
<b>Passenger Injuries:</b>	1 None	<b>Aircraft Fire:</b>	None
<b>Ground Injuries:</b>		<b>Aircraft Explosion:</b>	None
<b>Total Injuries:</b>	2 None	<b>Latitude, Longitude:</b>	36.304388,-83.4433 (est)

## Administrative Information

<b>Investigator In Charge (IIC):</b>	Hicks, Ralph
<b>Additional Participating Persons:</b>	Brad Holland; FAA/FSDO; Nashville, TN
<b>Note:</b>	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.