



# National Transportation Safety Board Aviation Accident Preliminary Report

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<b>Location:</b>	Moss Hill, TX	<b>Accident Number:</b>	CEN16FA346
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	09/03/2016, 1900 CDT	<b>Registration:</b>	N787MW
<b>Aircraft:</b>	BELLANCA 7ECA	<b>Injuries:</b>	2 Fatal
<b>Flight Conducted Under:</b>	Part 91: General Aviation - Personal		

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On September 3, 2016, about 1900 central daylight time, a Bellanca 7ECA airplane, N787MW, impacted the Trinity River about one-third mile south of Highway 105 near Moss Hill, Texas. The pilot and passenger sustained fatal injuries. The airplane was substantially damaged. The airplane was registered to a private individual and operated by the pilot under the provisions of 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 91 as a personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed for the flight, which was not operated on a flight plan. The local flight originated from the Cleveland Municipal Airport (6R3), Cleveland, Texas, at an undetermined time.

Witnesses reported observing the pilot completing several low altitude maneuvers before descending and impacting the river. Ground-based video footage depicted the airplane flying over the river at low altitude. The airplane pitched up and entered a steep climb. As the airplane reached the top of the climb, it yawed to the left, subsequently entering a near vertical descent and gradual left turn. Shortly before impacting the river, the gradual left turn reversed abruptly into a right, descending turn. The airplane came to rest inverted and partially submerged in the river.

## Aircraft and Owner/Operator Information

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<b>Aircraft Manufacturer:</b>	BELLANCA	<b>Registration:</b>	N787MW
<b>Model/Series:</b>	7ECA	<b>Aircraft Category:</b>	Airplane
<b>Amateur Built:</b>	No		
<b>Operator:</b>	Pilot	<b>Air Carrier Operating Certificate:</b>	None

## Meteorological Information and Flight Plan

Observation Facility, Elevation:	6R3, 150 ft msl	Observation Time:	1855 CDT
Lowest Cloud Condition:	Clear	Conditions at Accident Site:	Visual Conditions
Lowest Ceiling:	None	Temperature/Dew Point:	29° C / 24° C
Wind Speed/Gusts, Direction:	Calm	Visibility	7 Miles
Altimeter Setting:	29.95 inches Hg	Type of Flight Plan Filed:	None
Departure Point:	Cleveland, TX (6R3)	Destination:	Cleveland, TX (6R3)

## Wreckage and Impact Information

Crew Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Damage:	Substantial
Passenger Injuries:	1 Fatal	Aircraft Fire:	None
Ground Injuries:	N/A	Aircraft Explosion:	None
Total Injuries:	2 Fatal		

## Administrative Information

Investigator In Charge (IIC):	Timothy Sorensen
Additional Participating Persons:	Carl C Thomas; FAA -- Flight Standards; Houston, TX
Note:	The NTSB did not travel to the scene of this accident.