Accident

Aircraft Type and Registration:	Titan T-51 Mustang, G-MUZY	
No & Type of Engines:	1 Rotax 912ULS piston engine	
Year of Manufacture:	2009 (Serial no: LAA 355-14831)	
Date & Time (UTC):	10 May 2026 at 1345 hrs	
Location:	Ballynahinch, County Down	
Type of Flight:	Private	
Persons on Board:	Crew - 1	Passengers - None
Injuries:	Crew - 1 (Minor)	Passengers - N/A
Nature of Damage:	Damage to engine bay, cowling, spinner and right landing gear axle	
Commander's Licence:	National Private Pilot's Licence	
Commander's Age:	45 years	
Commander's Flying Experience:	266 hours (of which 67 were on type) Last 90 days - 4 hours Last 28 days - 4 hours	
Information Source:	Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot and further enquiries by AAIB	

When nearing the end of the flight, the pilot noticed a puff of vapour from the forward right upper engine cowling, followed by a pulse of clear liquid which streamed back over the upper cowling and canopy. Shortly afterwards, a flame appeared through the top of the cowling which increased in intensity. The pilot instigated a forced landing in a field, having isolated the fuel and stopped the engine. The field had a steeper slope than expected, which became visible to the pilot at approximately 200 ft agl. Upon landing and coming to a stop, the aircraft tipped onto its nose and rolled backwards but the pilot was able to exit the aircraft without harm. The fire lessened and burnt out before the emergency services arrived.

Fire damage prevented identification of a definite cause of the fuel leak. A subsequent survey by a repair organisation suggested it was likely that the fuel line had failed downstream from the fuel pump, allowing fuel to run onto the hot exhaust and subsequently ignite. Once the fuel supply had been stopped, there was not enough combustible material for the fire to self-sustain and damage was confined to the engine bay.

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