

Stacia Joyce
Air Safety Investigator
AS-ANC

Date: 2-19-2025

Subject: ANC25LA017

Contact: Stewart Spence

Stewart reported accompanying the pilot on the flight on February 2, 2025, to break in 2 cylinders which were installed in the airplane in November. Stewart reported that they took off from Merrill Field, PAMR with the fuel selector on both tanks. He said at some point during the flight the pilot noticed the airplane was drawing more fuel from the left tank, and subsequently he positioned the fuel selector to draw only from the right tank.

Stewart reported that upon returning to Anchorage over the inlet, the pilot moved the fuel selector to both tanks and applied full carburetor heat as they entered the traffic pattern. He said as the airplane began a right base leg turn, he noticed the Exhaust Gas Temperature (EGTs) rising and heard the engine sputter. He watched as the pilot cycled the carburetor heat and checked the magnetos. As the airplane turned final he reported that the engine lost all power, and an emergency landing was made to the empty parking lot just short of the runway.

The day after the accident Stewart said he assisted in relocating the airplane to the owner's hangar. While removing the wings for transport, he drained fuel from both wing tanks and estimated that there was about 4 gallons in the right tank and about 6 gallons in the left tank.