

FAA Inspector Statement
Deming, NM
Cessna 172S (N21767)

On June 10 2016, aircraft N21767 departed Lake Havasu City airport, (KHII) Arizona around 0900 MST and arrived at Deming Municipal Airport (KDMN) NM for a scheduled fuel stop around 1400 MDT. Deming airport employees stated that Mr. Michael D'Errico was in the left seat when they arrived. The airport assistant manager topped off the aircraft with 38.6 gallons of 100ll avgas for a full fuel load. Airport employees noticed that Mr. James Donahue's ankle was wrapped and he used crutches to get to and from the aircraft. At approximately 1510 aircraft N21767 taxied out for take-off on runway 26. Witnesses stated that the aircraft was in a steep angle of climb to the west about 200 feet AGL when it banked hard left and right and then back to the left again. At approximately 1520 the aircraft crashed on the taxiway near the departure end of runway 4 on KDMN. According to an eye witness, the aircraft was headed east when it impacted a taxiway approximately 600 feet from the southwest end of the taxiway for runway 4/22. Following the initial impact, the aircraft skidded another 100 feet before coming to rest in a dirt area between runway 4 and the taxi way at a heading of 302 degrees. The aircraft was destroyed. Based on weather reports, the density altitude at the time of the crash was 7723 feet. The aircraft was approximately 170lbs over gross takeoff weight based on the basic empty weight of the aircraft, the fuel load, pilot's weight, and the pilot's bags. Both pilots were removed from the aircraft by medical personnel and transported to the hospital. Mr. James Donahue was removed from the left seat. Mr. Michael D'Errico was removed from the right seat. Neither pilot will admit to being the pilot in command. Both pilots claim that the aircraft engine failed on takeoff. A post-crash diagnosis by inspectors from Lycoming Engines and Textron Aviation revealed no anomalies in the engine or the aircraft.

William K. Landers
Assistant Principal Avionics Inspector
Albuquerque FSDO

Fox Todd

From: William.Landers [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 15, 2016 3:38 PM
To: Fox Todd
Subject: N21676 Preliminary information
Attachments: IMG_4036.JPG; IMG_4037.JPG; IMG_4049.JPG; IMG_4066.JPG; IMG_4106.JPG; IMG_4037.JPG

Mr. Fox,

James Donahue and Michael Derrico are contract employees with Air America Flight Center in Daytona Beach Florida. Mr. Donahue picked up the N21767 at Boeing Field/King County Airport Seattle (KBFI) on 5 June 2016 to ferry back to Daytona. Near Blythe California the aircraft had an electrical failure and Mr. Donahue landed for repairs. Mr. Donahue injured his ankle while on the ground at Blythe and had to have it bandaged by a doctor. Mr. Donahue then flew the aircraft to Lake Havasu, AZ for repairs. Northstar Aircraft Maintenance ([REDACTED]) in Lake Havasu, AZ inspected and returned the aircraft to service on June 9, 2016. Mr. Donahue went to the doctor again in Lake Havasu, AZ to have his ankle looked at again. After the electrical failure and the ankle injury, Mr. Donahue contacted Air America Flight Center about his injury and the aircraft maintenance issues. Jake Michaels (Air America Flight Center Chief Pilot) sent Michael Derrico to fly the airplane back to Dayton, since Mr. Donahue was injured. According to witness reports Mr. Derrico was in the left seat when the plane arrived at Deming. The aircraft landed at Deming for fuel. Robert Benavidez airport manager stated that they took on a full fuel load at departed the airport around 1530 local time on 6/10/2016. N21767 took off to the west with light to variable winds. Tony Jayne the assistant airport manager watched them taxi out and take off. He noted the aircraft climbing out, but did not notice anything unusual. Deming Police officer Jose Montoya was headed north on Golf Course Drive when he saw the aircraft taking off to the west at approximately 200 AGL. He said that he noticed it make a sharp turn to the left and back right then back left. He then lost sight of it behind the mesquite trees. The aircraft was headed back to east when it contacted the taxi way. After the initial contact it bounced and began to spin. It contacted the ground for the 2nd time about 80 feet from the initial impact. Then it slid backward for another 120 feet to its final position. Office Montoya called the accident in to dispatch and immediately went to the accident site. When rescuers arrived at the aircraft they removed Mr. Donahue from the left seat. He was identified by the bandage on his right foot.

I called to check on the medical condition of the guys this morning. This morning Tom Derrico (Michael Derrico's father) told me that Mr. Donahue said that the engine had failed during take-off. Mr. Donahue did not tell us about the engine issue during our hospital interview. Witnesses from golf course believe that the engine was running at the time of impact.

I have include more photos for your review.

List of Contacts:

- o State Trooper Lucio Contreras [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
- o James Donahue, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
- o Michael Derrico, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
- o Deming Police officer Jose Montoya [REDACTED] (eye witness)
- o Robert Benavidez airport manager [REDACTED], [REDACTED]
- o Tony Jayne assistant airport manager [REDACTED]
- o Damien Lowell [REDACTED] Witness from golf Rio Member Golf course.
- o David Jorgensen [REDACTED]. Witness from golf Rio Member Golf course.
- o Northstar Aircraft Maintenance [REDACTED]
- o Jake Michaels Chief Imaging pilot for Air America [REDACTED]

Fox Todd

From: William.Landers [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 5:30 PM
To: Fox Todd
Subject: RE: CEN16LA228 ~ Deming, NM ~ Cessna model 172S (N21767)

Mr. Fox,

I have made several attempts to contact James Donahue. He is not answering my emails or my phone calls. James' attorney contacted me this morning. I directed him to the SW region's attorney, Greg Lander.

I did talk to Michael Derrico's mother on 7/15/2016. She said that he was sleeping and could not talk to me. She also stated that he did not remember anything related to the accident.

Neither of them have provided a written statement.

We have located a local mechanic that can do the engine teardown.

He is an employee at Santa Fe Aero Services in Santa Teresa NM. His name is Steve Stetler, contact him at [REDACTED].

Bill Landers

Assistant Principal Avionics Inspector
[REDACTED]

From: Fox Todd [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, July 19, 2016 8:37 AM
To: dhuejames [REDACTED]
Cc: jmichels [REDACTED]; Landers, William (FAA); Fox Todd; Melissa Booth ([REDACTED])
Subject: RE: CEN16LA228 ~ Deming, NM ~ Cessna model 172S (N21767)
Importance: High

Mr. Donahue,

Can you please confirm that you have received my emails concerning the airplane accident in Deming, NM?

Sincerely,

Andrew Todd Fox

NTSB, Air Safety Investigator

From: Fox Todd
Sent: Thursday, July 14, 2016 10:34 AM
To: 'dhuejames [REDACTED]'
Cc: [jmichels](#) [REDACTED]; [william.land](#) [REDACTED]; Fox Todd; Melissa Booth ([REDACTED])
Subject: RE: CEN16LA228 ~ Deming, NM ~ Cessna model 172S (N21767)
Importance: High

Mr. Donahue,