



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Central Region

Record of Telephone Conversation

Person Interviewed: Azra Caudill – FAA Inspector

Date: April 20, 2017

Subject: – CEN17LA162

He went to the accident sight and said the fuel selector was on the right fuel tank when he saw the airplane.

The pilot told him that she took off with the left fuel tank selected and switched to the right fuel tank about 1:40 into the flight.

Pilot was landing on runway 24 and was turning base to final when the engine lost power. She landed in a field and the airplane contacted a fence and some irrigation equipment. The landing gear collapsed and the right wing broke.

He looked in the fuel tanks and did not see any fuel in the left tank. There was fuel in the right tank, but he could not tell how much. He turned on the master switch and the left tank indicated less than one-quarter of a tank and the right tank indicated more than a quarter of a tank. The airplane was not sitting level at the time.

Pamela S Sullivan
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Central Region

Record of Telephone Conversation

Person Interviewed: Serena Whelchel - Pilot

Date: April 19, 2017

Subject: – CEN17LA162

Her boyfriend purchased a skydiving business and the airplane was part of the purchase, but he didn't need it. The airplane was purchased by a person in Colorado, so she was flying the airplane to the new owner. She will provide the names of the individuals as she didn't have them with her during this conversation. There was no insurance coverage on the airplane.

She departed Page, Arizona with full fuel. The airplane operated normally until she was in the traffic pattern at Salida when the engine quit. She landed in a field off the approach end of runway 24. The airplane hit a fence and a crop watering system during the landing.

She stated she had plenty of fuel and was operating on the right-wing tank at the time of the accident. She stated she leaned the mixture during the flight and had increased the mixture to full rich prior to entering the traffic pattern.

Pamela S Sullivan
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Central Region

Record of Telephone Conversation

Person Interviewed: Zach Papp – Airport Manager

Date: April 21, 2017

Subject: – CEN17LA162

Zach organized the removal of the airplane from the field to the airport.

He stated they drained 14 – 15 gallons of fuel from the right wing and about 1 gallon from the left wing. There was fuel dripping from the vent on the right wing.

The landing gear are ripped out and the right-wing strut was broken, and the wing was bent down at the fuselage. The left-wing tip was bent upward.

The airplane is secured in a hangar at the airport.

Pamela S Sullivan
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator