



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Central Region

Record of Telephone Conversation

Person Interviewed: David Thompson - Pilot

Date: June 26, 2017

Subject: – CEN17LA228

Mr. Thompson is currently in a nursing home/rehab facility recovering from injuries sustained in the accident.

About 1 ½ months prior to the accident he was having trouble with increased cylinder head temps on the engine, a VW Type 1. The engine popped and quit when he was on downwind and he landed the airplane back on the runway. He couldn't get the engine to restart. He ended up replacing some of the ignition parts, and adjusted the valves which were too tight. He was then able to start the engine and it ran fine during run-up tests.

The plan for the accident flight was takeoff and circle above the runway to make sure the engine was running ok. Just after takeoff, the engine started sputtering. He made a left 180° turn to return to the runway and during the turn, the engine lost all power. He stated that the airplane stalled when he was in the turn and he did not have enough time to recover before contacting the ground.

He is an A&P mechanic. Thinks the problem may have been with the distributor cap, or the condenser coil.

Pamela S Sullivan
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator