

Communication Summary

August 08, 2018

Information from: Inspector Paul Gillenwater



Summary & Factual Information: Inspector Gillenwater traveled to Butler County Airport Ohio (KHAO) today and interviewed the pilot of N23JH and took some photos of the engine. He stated: I was able to document the breakage and separation of the RH exhaust manifold which was directly beneath the intake breather for the engine. I also found the mixture set screw on the carburetor was very loose against the spring and was reported by the pilot to be extended out (or unscrewed by possible vibration) as evidenced by it punching through the cowling on impact. I am not sure if it was a combination of factors or just the hot exhaust gases blowing directly into the intake. The pilot reports the engine lost power but remained running until impact.

The mount wire is rather flimsy and not as secure as the exhaust pip on the other side. The pilot reports when he finished the aerial photo shoot he did a rudder wag of the tail and that is when it all started. He thinks the pipe failed at that moment and the engine started ingesting hot exhaust gases which effected engine performance.

The battery that was in question still remains fully charged. It still reads 12.9 volts post accident . In a picture you can see the needle valve for the carburetor mixture control is backed out nearly all the way.

Breather screen was clean but with some oil residue. Engine had oil in it.

I can attest that the above summary is correct to the best of my knowledge:

Edward F. Malinowski
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator