



RECORD OF INFORMATION

Michael J. Folkerts
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

NTSB Accident Number: CEN18LA328

The FAA inspector who responded to the accident site provided the following information:

- The fuselage, both engine mounts, and landing gear were significantly damaged.
- The airplane's entry into the cornfield appeared to be nose down, with a slight left bank.
- Examination of the airframe and engine revealed no evidence of mechanical malfunctions or failures that were not impact related.

The accident pilot provided the following information:

- He started flying in 1990 and purchased the accident airplane in 2001.
- One of the passengers, an international student, was in the front right seat on her first flight.
- Soon after takeoff, he heard a very loud pop and noticed the left engine cowling was loose and flapping violently.
- Based on concerns the cowling would penetrate the windshield and injure the passenger, he pulled the power back to land straight ahead, but realized not enough runway was available to do so.
- The sudden and unexpected opening of the cowling was very startling and distracted him from maintaining airspeed control.
- He attempted to go-around and return to the runway, but realized the airplane's airspeed was slow and a sink rate had developed. To avoid stalling the airplane, he pushed forward on the yoke and the airplane impacted into a cornfield.