



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Accident Number: CEN19LA048

Location: Watkins, Colorado

Date: December 26, 2018

Subject: Interview with Mr. James Taylor, Pilot of a Vans RV-6, N711KJ, that caught fire in flight in the Traffic pattern at Front Range Airport, Watkins, Colorado on December 25, 2018

Mr. Taylor reported he'd been performing touch and go traffic patterns on runway 26 at FTG. While on initial climb from his second touch and go, he smelled a strange odor and noticed a flame on the floor in front of his rudder pedals. He declared an emergency with tower. He said he was about 200-300 ft. above the runway. He immediately reduced power and put the airplane back down on the runway. He exited the runway at taxiway Alpha 4, stopped, shut the engine down by pulling the mixture to full lean, turned off the fuel valve, fuel boost pump, and electrical power switches, and exited the airplane. Mr. Taylor said he stood there and watched the fire get bigger and consume the airplane's fuselage.

Mr. Taylor said he had the airplane for about 2 months. When he purchased it, he had a pre-purchase inspection done. The mechanic who did that inspection said that the fuel and oil hoses needed to be replaced as they were old and brittle. Mr. Taylor said he spent about \$1,200.00 replacing the hoses with TSO fire-sleeved hoses. He did this just before Thanksgiving. He said he'd flown the airplane 1.5 hours before this happened.

Taken by,

Dr. David Bowling
Regional Chief, Senior Air Safety Investigator
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