



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Courtney Liedler
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region**

**Date: July 16, 2019
Person Contacted: Robert Donnelly, Airplane Owner and Pilot
NTSB Accident Number: CEN19LA223**

Narrative:

During a telephone conversation, Mr. Donnelly stated:

He loaded the 2 passengers into the airplane and had them secure their seatbelts. The child was in the rear right seat and adult in the front right seat. He completed his preflight while the passengers waited in the airplane. He was standing in front of the nose and checked the tension on the propeller belt. He lowered the propeller blade by “smacking it down” in a clockwise direction. The propeller began to rotate, and the airplane began to move forward under its power. He jumped out of the way. The airplane proceeded toward the grass between the ramp and the taxiway, then continued over the taxiway and over the grass between the taxiway and the runway, and up over the runway where it became airborne. The airplane came back down on the other side of the runway and stopped in an adjacent wheat field.

The pilot stated the key was in the ignition but not turned to “START.” He could not recall the configuration of the mixture and throttle during his preflight walk around.