

N5932U Accident

On October 20, 2020, was notified of aircraft accident involving N5932U, a Piper, PA 28-140. The aircraft reported engine trouble, declared an emergency, landed in a field next to airport runway 85TX, in Buda, Texas. Two individuals on board, a student pilot with an instructor performing night training, no injuries.

Arrive on scene Oct 21, 2020, at first light. The scene provided evidence the left wing clipped a tree prior to landing in a rough field. Shortly after touch down the aircraft went over a very rocky terrain causing the right gear to separate from the wing spar. Observed oil evidence under the elevator area. Upon opening the engine cowling area, the engine had sustained a catastrophic engine failure. Engine particles showed signs of severe overheating. Inspection revealed a disconnected engine oil line going to the oil pressure indicator at the union connecting the oil line to the copper line. The oil dipstick identified the oil level was barely indicating on the stick.

Records show the aircraft sustained a hard landing in 2020 with a propeller strike. The engine was removed and then an overhaul completed by the owner / mechanic. This was the aircraft's actual first flight since the installation, except for a local flight to confirm engine operation. It is unknown how the oil line passed a leak check when not properly torqued. It is believed the oil line disconnected in flight and the pilots did not properly monitor the engine indicators. Upon entry into aircraft, the carb heat was on, indicating the instructor assumed it was carb icing.

Interviews with the mechanics allowed for this situation to be possible. They stated since more than one individual was performing the install and no procedure to verify all lines were torque properly, it was very possible a line could have been missed. They have implement torque striping to prevent future failed torqueing. The right spar was discovered crack causing to be classified as an accident.

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