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Investigator-in-Charge
Central Region

Date: July 8, 2021

Subject: Memorandum of Record, CEN21LA309, T-51 Mustang Accident at Ashtabula, Ohio

Contact: Donald E. Reid, Air Safety Inspector, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Cleveland, Ohio, Flight Standards District Office

The pilot reported to the FAA that he was performing a "Crow Hop" on the runway to check the engine for fuel starvation. The pilot took off on runway 27 and was climbing through 200 ft. agl when the engine quit. The pilot stated that the engine computer circuit breaker had tripped causing the engine to fail. He attempted to reset the circuit breaker and restart the engine. The circuit breaker would not reset. At that time, he knew the engine would not restart. He continued to nose the airplane over to maintain an airspeed of 75 mph and land the airplane on the remaining runway. A high sink rate resulted from the attempt to maintain a safe speed and the airplane struck the runway hard collapsing the landing gear.

An examination of the airplane showed the left main landing gear was collapsed. The left wing was bent aft and upward outboard of the wing root. Three of the four propeller blades were bent aft at the tips and the fourth blade was broken off just outside the spinner.