

Shaun Williams
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: 11/29/2022

Subject: CEN23LA049 Pilot Interview

Contact: Shawn Harper, Pilot-in-Command, N3886D

On November 24, 2022, about 1000 mountain standard time, a Cessna 182 airplane, N3886D, sustained substantial damage when it was involved in an accident near Durango, Colorado. The pilot and passenger were uninjured. The flight was being operated as a Title 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 91 personal flight.

Mr. Harper stated on November 29, that he had been flying with a friend in the local area and was on his way back to Durango when the accident occurred. He had made a turn utilizing about 30° of bank when the engine began to "cut out." He immediately leveled the wings and the engine started to regain power just before it "sputtered and died."

Following a forced landing, he was given permission to recover the airplane due to incoming adverse weather. To facilitate that recovery, he drained fuel from the wings, which was about 8-10 gallons per side and then removed the wings, placed the airplane on a trailer and moved it to his shop. He stated that the airplane was equipped with a fuel selector that had the positions of left, right, both and off. He had been operating in the "both" position.

When asked about the fuel system, Mr. Harper stated that the airplane utilized bladder style fuel tanks. He said that one tank had been replaced about 3 years ago but could not remember the exact reason why. He was asked for all maintenance records since the last annual and a photo of the logbook entry pertaining to the bladder replacement.

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