

Investigator Name
Title
Division

Date: May 9, 2023

Subject: CEN23LA166

Contact: Larry Beets - Owner/pilot of N44048

Spoke with Mr. Beets via telephone and he confirmed he was the pilot of N44048 when it was involved in an accident on April 24, 2023. He stated that he was on a pleasure flight that originated from his private airstrip. He said he took off and the airplane got off the ground in about 300 feet and was doing fine. He said he started the flight with about 18 total gallons of fuel in two wing tanks. Each tank had an individual fuel shutoff valve, and the right tank was turned off. Each tank also had an automotive style fuel filter in the fuel line leading from the tank. While cruising about 1000 ft agl, 2000 rpm, and 70 mph, the engine suddenly lost power. He said he attempted to restart the engine, checking throttle, mixture, carb heat, turning on the right tank, and even attempting to use the primer to restart the engine. His attempts were not successful, and he was about 500 ft agl and elected to land on a gravel road. He said there was a clearing farther ahead, but he didn't have enough altitude to make the clearing. As he was approaching to land on the gravel road, he noticed a powerline and maneuvered to avoid it, but struck a pine tree. He was not injured in the accident but received scratches and cuts when exiting the airplane due to a briar patch that the airplane came to rest in. Mr. Beet estimated his total time as 4,000 hours and 500 in the accident airplane.