



Shaun Williams
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Office of Aviation Safety - Central Region

Date: June 12, 2023
Subject: CEN23LA233, N8843L
Contact: Brady Davis, Pilot-in-Command

On June 3, 2023, about 0900 central daylight time, a Piper PA-25-235 airplane, N8843L, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Carrington, North Dakota.

Mr. Brady stated that before the accident flight, he had filled the fuel tanks. After engine start, he taxied and completed a full run-up, which included checking the magnetos and carburetor heat. During the carburetor heat check, he observed a drop in RPM, but could not remember the actual drop. He said the oil pressure was high, but the engine had not warmed up yet. Before departure, he waited on the ground "quite a while" to let the engine get "decently warm" to allow the engine temperature and oil pressure to get into the normal range. He said he waited on the ground about 10 minutes.

After takeoff, when in a turn to the crosswind leg of a right traffic pattern, the control stick began to feel light and he saw the red stall light flicker, which happens about 10 knots before the stall. He noticed the RPMs had dropped, which he said meant no power. He said when the engine quit, there were no pops, bangs or observed roughness; it was a sudden decrease in power like he had pulled the mixture to idle cutoff. He then executed a forced landing to a gravel road. During landing, the airplane impacted a drainage ditch, which resulted in substantial damage to both wings.