

Andrew Finne
Air Safety Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety

Date: January 2, 2024

Subject: CEN24LA076 - Initial Phone Conversation

Contact: Tom Powell - Pilot

This is a summary of the telephone interview with Mr. Powell regarding the accident of N2774P on December 29, 2023 in Vermillion, South Dakota.

Mr. Powell stated that he was on a local flight and was returning to land when his engine failed on short final back into Vermillion (VMR). He stated that the engine turned off like a "light switch" and did not have enough altitude or airspeed to correct for the sudden failure before being forced to land short of the runway in an agricultural field. Due to the field being covered by snow from a recent storm and the hard landing the airplane nosed over after a short ground roll bending one of the lift struts.

Mr. Powell stated that he believed the issue to be carburetor icing even though he had applied carburetor heat from power reduction on the downwind leg to his base to final turn. During the base to final turn, he turned off carburetor heat per his normal procedure. About 30 seconds later, the engine failed without any abnormal indications prior to the failure.

Mr. Powell stated that during the recovery of the airplane there was blue staining of the snow from 100LL Avgas. He further stated he had about 16 gallons of fuel at takeoff and flew for little over an hour.

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