

Aircraft Incident Report

Date Prepared: January 2, 2026

Prepared By: [REDACTED]

Title: Airport Manager

Airport: Southern Illinois Airport (MDH)

Incident Details

Date of Incident: December 31, 2025

Time: Approximately 1603 CST

Summary of Incident

At approximately 1603 CST on December 31, 2025, aircraft N401MS, an experimental Pitts S-1, operated as a solo flight by [REDACTED], Commercial Pilot and CFI, experienced an in-flight engine failure resulting in an off-airport emergency landing adjacent to Southern Illinois Airport.

Pilot [REDACTED] reported that he had conducted a low pass on Runway 18L and intended to execute a teardrop maneuver for landing on Runway 36R. After leveling off at approximately 400 feet AGL, the pilot reported that the engine sputtered and subsequently lost power. The pilot initiated engine-out procedures, including magnetos, throttle, mixture, and manual fuel pumping. Partial engine power was briefly restored.

The pilot attempted to turn back toward Runway 36R but determined that the aircraft could not safely reach the runway. The pilot made multiple radio transmissions, including Mayday calls, which were received and monitored by Airport Operations personnel on the ground.

Landing and Aircraft Damage

The pilot attempted an emergency landing on New Era Road, a north-south gravel roadway located east of and parallel to the Air Operations Area. The aircraft touched down on the roadway; however, directional control could not be maintained. The aircraft veered to the right, departed the roadway, entered the grass area, and struck a powerline pole. The aircraft then rotated, with the nose impacting the ground, and came to rest on airport property.

Upon arrival at the scene, Airport Management and Operations personnel observed the aircraft to be severely damaged, including separation of the left landing gear and left wing. No fire was observed. An initial visual inspection revealed no active fuel spill; however, a small fuel leak was later identified and monitored throughout the response.

Pilot Condition

Airport Management and Operations personnel found the pilot seated near the aircraft on New Era Road. The pilot was alert, stable, and ambulatory. First responders assessed the pilot and noted an abrasion and swelling to the left ankle/foot. The pilot declined ambulance transport after evaluation by fire personnel.

Emergency Response

The first emergency responders on scene were personnel from the Murphysboro Fire Department (MFD), operating under an intergovernmental mutual aid agreement with the Southern Illinois Airport Authority. Captains [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] assumed command of the fire response until relieved by Southern Illinois Airport ARFF personnel.

The Carbondale Township Fire Department, under the command of Chief [REDACTED], arrived shortly thereafter. Jackson County Ambulance Service responded but was declined by the pilot following evaluation. Jackson County Sheriff's Office Sergeant [REDACTED] arrived approximately 20 minutes after Carbondale Township Fire Department personnel.

All responding agencies remained on scene until relieved or released by Airport ARFF.

Notifications and Documentation

While first responders assessed the pilot, Airport Operations personnel conducted 360-degree photographic documentation of the aircraft and surrounding area. The pilot was subsequently interviewed by the undersigned, [REDACTED], Airport Manager, away from the aircraft and other individuals.

The FAA and NTSB were notified through the FAA Regional Operations Center (ROC).

Aircraft Securing and Removal

First responders remained on standby due to the presence of a fuel leak until relieved by Southern Illinois Airport ARFF personnel. The aircraft was preserved in place pending NTSB direction. Upon authorization from the NTSB, Airport Management was instructed to move the aircraft to a secure indoor location.

[REDACTED] Towing and Recovery was contacted to transport the aircraft. The aircraft was loaded onto a flatbed truck, and separated components were placed into a secondary vehicle. Airport Operations personnel escorted both vehicles to T-Hangar [REDACTED] an unoccupied, airport-owned hangar on the west side of the field.

Upon arrival, it was discovered that [REDACTED], a bystander, possessed a master key to the T-Hangars. To secure the aircraft, Southern Illinois Airport maintenance vehicle MX-4 was positioned in front of the hangar door. The keys to MX-4 were secured by [REDACTED], SIAA Maintenance Foreman and ARFF Chief.

Additional Notation

Airport Management was informed that [REDACTED], an inquiring bystander, removed an engine data card and a GoPro camera from the aircraft following the accident. Mr. [REDACTED] was subsequently directed by both Airport Management and the FAA to return the engine data card to the aircraft and provide the video footage to the pilot.

Pilot Information

[REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

First Responder Contact Information

- Captain [REDACTED] – Murphysboro Fire Department – [REDACTED]
- Captain [REDACTED] – Murphysboro Fire Department – [REDACTED]
- Chief [REDACTED] – Carbondale Township Fire Department – [REDACTED]
- Sergeant [REDACTED] – Jackson County Sheriff's Office – [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] – SIAA ARFF Chief – [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED] – SIAA ARFF Officer – [REDACTED]



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