



Diana Crump
Aviation Accident Investigator
NTSB Central Region Office

Date: 09/03/2026

Subject: CEN26LA304

Contact: [REDACTED], Chief Pilot with Nationwide Aviation

A phone interview with the Chief Pilot, [REDACTED], was conducted on September 3, 2026.

According to the chief pilot, the purpose of the flight was to continue the engine break-in process for a newly installed engine. He reported that pilots were selected to perform engine break-in flights based on availability and scheduling considerations and that the flights were conducted solo. The chief pilot stated that he briefed the accident pilot on the procedures before the flight using the school's "Engine Break-In Checklist," which had been used during previous engine break-in operations. When asked about the origin of the checklist and the rationale for the 75 knots rotation speed specified in the checklist, the chief pilot said that he did not know because the checklist had been developed before he assumed the position of chief pilot. The chief pilot stated that the accident pilot was a Flight Instructor for the school and he would describe his flying knowledge skills as average.

End of statement.