

Hicks Ralph

From: Epperson Joe
Sent: Tuesday, June 03, 2014 6:19 PM
To: Hicks Ralph
Cc: Budinski Michael
Subject: ERA14LA178 Fuel Tubes
Attachments: IMG_3063.JPG

Place : Bay St Louis, Mississippi
Date : March 3, 2014
Vehicle : Bellanca 8KCAB, N11FS
NTSB No. : ERA14LA178
Investigator : Ralph Hicks, ASI-ERA

Mr. Hicks:

Optical examinations of the two fuel tube fractures (tubes shown in the attached image) revealed features consistent with overstress separations while the tubes were at elevated temperatures. No indications of fatigue or other preexisting cracking was uncovered.

As received, the nut on the fitting of the larger tube was finger tight and could be easily unthreaded. With the nut fully loosened the fractured tube would not move in the fitting under hand pressure.

Joe Epperson
Senior Metallurgist
NTSB Materials Lab

