



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

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National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: August 3, 2017 at 1230 EDT
Person(s) Interviewed: Michael Ernst– Passenger (pilot)
NTSB Case Number: ERA17CA295

Narrative:

Mr. Michael Ernst was interviewed by telephone.

Mr. Ernst stated he is a private pilot, but a student pilot getting his instrument certificate.

Mr. Ernst stated he was in the back seat and just went along for a ride while he was waiting to take a lesson later in the day.

Mr. Ernst stated they flew from St. Augustine to Palatka and after landing on the runway, the engine quit and they stopped on the runway, he stated he was looking around for airplanes while they tried to get the engine restarted. He heard someone say smoke and then he heard the CFI tell everyone to get out of the airplane.

He ran around to the engine cowl and opened the cowl and saw a fire by the bottom of the engine around the carburetor. It was gaining intensity so he closed the cowl. The CFI got the fire extinguisher out of the airplane but it was empty. He looked at the tag and saw that it was last inspected in 2008. He then ran to the FBO for help but noticed a car driving out the airplane, so he stopped the car and asked for a fire extinguisher. They did not have one but took him to get one. When they got back the engine was completely engulfed in flames and he put it out about the time the fire department got there and took over.