



MEMORANDUM

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Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: August 8, 2018
NTSB Case Number: ERA17FA231

Narrative:

Per your request, I looked at the instrument panel on N49453. The instrument panel was extremely fragmented. There were no instruments installed in the panel or connected to the wiring harness. (see photo 1.)



Photo 1. Instrument panel

The shock mounts for the instrument panel were missing. The vacuum system was fragmented and only a couple hoses were present. (see photo 2.)



Photo 2. Vacuum lines.

The vacuum regulating valve was located still connected to the firewall. A rubber hose about 12 inches in length was still attached to the left port on the aft side of the valve. (see photo 3.)



Photo 3. Vacuum regulating valve.

The regulating valve was removed and appeared to be in good condition; however, the valve has been sitting outside in the weather for some time and some corrosion was present on the valve. The foam protecting the valve from dirt and debris was in good condition. (see photo 4-5)



Photo 4. Regulating valve.



Photo 5. Regulating valve with a 12 inch long hose attached.

The valve has two output ports. One port was fractured off which was opposite the port that connected to the engine-driven vacuum pump. See photo 6.



Photo 6. Port missing.

The vacuum hose was removed from the existing port and it was noticed that the port was clogged with some debris. The debris was hard and appeared to be convex as first viewed. See photo 7.



Photo 7. Clogged port.

The debris was removed from the port for further examination. The debris was soft in the middle. (See photo 8-9)



Photo 8. Debris.



Photo 9. Close-up of the debris.