

INSPECTOR STATEMENT

On Friday, July 07, 2017, I received a call from Tampa, FSDO, Front Line Manager at 10:00 am to investigate an accident in Cape Coral, FL. Upon arrival at 14:30 pm the pilot was not available; he was transferred to a local hospital for treatment of minor injuries. The aircraft Cessna, model 172D was inverted between a hotel parking lot and street. Right wing side fuel cap was dripping some type of liquid. Due to the position of aircraft, it was difficult to take a fuel sample however, I was able to place my hand between wing and pavement and the liquid appears to be a mixture of fuel and water. While waiting for the aircraft to be removed from the scene, Fire Rescue chief expressed that before my arrival the aircraft owner was on the crash site and noticed him looking at water coming out of the fuel caps. I asked Fire chief if water was sprayed on the aircraft and he replied "no". They just applied foam around aircraft perimeter as precautionary measure.

After aircraft was recovered, fuel caps were opened and appear to have been under water for an extended period of time, extensive rust is present on both fuel ports. Seals showed signs of wear and may have caused water to get inside tanks during rain. On Monday, July 10, 2017 I asked the pilot if the aircraft was kept in a hangar or outdoors and he replied "outdoors".

I verified aircraft documents and found valid. Pilot last medical was May 12, 2016. Aircraft maintenance records were requested from the owner and were provided by email. Last engine and airframe annual inspection were completed on April 10, 2017. Pilot provided statement with information of events of the flight and his hours as a pilot.



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