



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

June 4, 2018

Subject: NTSB investigation ERA18LA158, N8698, Bellanca 7ECA, Warsaw, Kentucky, June 3, 2018. Record of Phone Conversation with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) inspector Jamie Poppe, of the Louisville, Kentucky Flight Standards District Office. On June 4, 2018, Ms. Poppe and Inspector Charles Holesclaw travelled to the accident scene. After inspecting the site, Ms. Poppe telephoned and provided the following information:

The pilot reported that during the takeoff roll, the airplane was not accelerating as he expected. He aborted the takeoff and while he attempted to avoid trees and a dropoff beyond the runway, the airplane ground looped. The airplane came to rest in tall grass off the right side of runway and sustained substantial damage to the fuselage aft of the rear window.

Examination of the airplane revealed there was 'plenty' of fuel in each wing tank. The propeller was rotated by hand, and thumb compression and suction were present on all four cylinders. All engine controls were intact from the cockpit to their respective location on the engine. The air intake was unobstructed. The carburetor inlet screen was absent of debris, and the carburetor bowl contained fuel. The left magneto was removed and spun by hand and produced spark on all towers.

The airport was a private unpublished turf field with one runway, 1,100 feet long by 125 feet wide runway oriented north-south, with an elevation of about 850 feet which increased (uphill) toward the north. The grass was "short" and had recently been mowed. The accident takeoff was toward the north, the pilot had intended to perform a local flight.

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