



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

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Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: December 12, 2018 @ 1000
Person Interviewed: Mr. Mellega-student pilot
NTSB Case Number: ERA19FA048

Narrative:

Mr. Mellega was interviewed by telephone.

Mr. Mellega stated he showed up at the airport in preparation for his solo flight later in the day after he and the flight instructor (FI) flew one more flight together. Once at the airport, he noticed the engine cowling was open on the airplane and asked if everything was okay. He was told by the owner/flight instructor that there was problem earlier, but it is fixed now.

Mr. Mellega and the FI started the pre-flight checklist and discussed what was to be expected during the flight that day. They also discussed what they would do if they had a problem at takeoff and where they would land. They discussed the height requirement of 700 ft. AGL before any attempt was made to turn around and land back at the airport. After they flew together for a while. Mr. Mellega was to drop of the FI and make his first solo flight.

They taxied to the end of the runway and checked all systems again, all checked good.

Mr. Mellega started the take-off and as soon as he rotated, the engine sputtered and the FI took over controls. Mr. Mellega looked down and saw 240 ft on the altimeter and then blacked out and woke up in the hospital.