



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Date: 10/22/2018
Person Contacted: Chad Lowe (Student Pilot)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA19LA022

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a telephone conversation that occurred with the student pilot:

- The purpose of flight was to complete a roundtrip cross-country from Crossville Memorial Airport-Whitson Field (CSV), Crossville, Tennessee to Indianapolis Metropolitan Airport (UMP), Indianapolis, Indiana.
- He departed CSV about 7:30AM, October 19th, 2018, and after arriving at UMP, he spent the day in the area for business. The fuel tanks were topped off at UMP.
- He recalled that the preflight check was normal. He believed he departed UMP about 10:30PM.
- He reported that while enroute about 60 miles south of UMP, he was maneuvering around a military restricted airspace (MOA) and additional restricted airspace, and class delta airspace. About a few minutes later, heading south, in an "Instant" the cockpit went "black."
- He believed he suddenly lost all electrical power. All of the cockpit lights and the landing light turned off. And then a few seconds, the "engine just went quiet." The prop was wind milling he recalled. It was "quiet and dark."
- He was about 3,000 ft msl when the failures occurred.
- In response to the sudden loss of electrical power, he stated that he cycled the master switch "up and down," two separate times.
- He stated that after the loss of electrical power, at some point, he also cycled the starter switch to both to off, and back to both, two separate times.
- He also recycled the avionics switch twice.
- He stated that none of the remedial actions restored electrical or engine power, so he moved his focus to the forced landing.
- He maneuvered for a dark area below him, believing that the area may be an open field. As the airplane descended, he saw trees just prior to impact, and remembered he saw 68 knots groundspeed on his iPad.



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- He reported that throughout the flight, it was “very dark” but he did not have a problem with visibility or the clouds.
- After the impact, he hiked about 3-4 miles until he found a house and requested assistance.
- He did not file a flight plan and was not communicating with air traffic control during the flight.
- He recalled that the ammeter was normal and was positive during both flights.
- The engine parameters were normal all the way up until the loss of engine power.
- He believed the accident time was around 12:00AM local time, October 20th, 2018.
- The student pilot stated that his flight instructor “didn’t know what I was up to.” He stated, “I just took the plane” for the trip.
- He stated that he has had cross-country training in the past, but this was not a planned solo cross-country trip with the flight instructor’s knowledge or endorsements.
- He stated that he was “just waiting for a good time to take the FAA checkride.”
- He reported he has about 120 hours in this make and model
- He reported he has never flown to this area before.
- He reported that his expected arrival into CSV was about 1:10AM local time.
- The student pilot is ‘based’ in Crossville, TN (CSV) airport and he owns the accident airplane.
- He was not injured.