



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Pilot Statement

Peter Wentz
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 03/26/2019
Person Contacted: Brent Sutton (Pilot)
Contact # [REDACTED]
NTSB Accident Number: ERA19LA136

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the individual named above:

Mr. Sutton stated he conducted a preflight of the aircraft and found nothing abnormal. He had flown into Fort Lauderdale Executive airport (FXE) on Sunday, March 24, 2019 from St Pete-Clearwater airport (PIE) and had ordered 30 gallons of fuel from Banyan Air service to be placed in the auxiliary fuel tanks (15 gallons in each auxiliary tank). The following day during the preflight he stated he check all fuel and oil levels and found no anomalies. He loaded his passengers and started the engines, noting "the fuel level in the main tank was half full and the auxiliary tank was nearly full". He then taxied out to the active runway where he conducted a run-up before departing FXE. After leveling off at 6,000 feet, the left engine failed. The pilot stated he made several attempts to restart the engine but was not successful. He was asked if he used a checklist while attempting to start the engine and his reply was "no, I was to busy trying to restart the engine". He stated that he had contacted ATC for vectors to the nearest airport and turned the airplane towards Big Cypress Airfield (59FD). Shortly after making the turn to 59FD, the right engine failed. He stopped trying to restart the left engine and feathered the left propeller, then started attempts to restart the right engine. When asked if he checked the fuel selector valve, he stated "no, I had my hands full with trying to restart the engines and fly the airplane". The pilot stated that he could see 59FD and felt he didn't have the altitude to make a landing, so he picked a field east of 59FD and set up an approach to the field. Once he was close to landing, he lowered the gear and flaps and stated he applied heavy braking after touchdown. He stated that he had not noticed an irrigation ditch at the end of the field and the airplane impacted the ditch, collapsing the nose gear and damaging both propellers. The pilot and both passengers evacuated the airplane, he stated that one passenger had a minor wrist injury.