



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
NTSB Eastern Region Aviation

Date: October 13, 2020
Person Contacted: Shane Lucado, Attorney for David Duke
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA272, Alabaster, AL

Follow-up questions regarding pretakeoff and postaccident pilot actions were forwarded to Mr. Lucado on October 7, 2020. Mr. Lucado provided the following response on October 13, 2020:

“Thank you for the follow up Mr. Hicks. I apologize for my delay in responding for Mr. Duke. I have been out of the office the past week.

The student did a full run up per the POH prior to taking off for the flight training event. They flew for approximately one hour and came in for a landing runway 16 EET. They then taxied back to runway 16 to do a short field take off. They taxied on to the runway center line, applied full brakes for a static take off, pushed the mixtures, props, and power full forward and checked power settings and engine gauges and verified all was normal before releasing the brakes. When they exited the airplane after the forced landing, there was a strong smell of fuel. Because of the risk of fire or explosion, Mr. Duke moved all the switches to the off positions, mixtures to the off positions and moved the fuel selectors from the main tank positions to the off positions.

I hope this email answers your questions. Please let me know if you need anything further.”