



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

Record of Conversation

Who: Enrique Troconis, Pilot

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Troconis stated he was hired to fly the airplane to another state on behalf of the new owner. Prior to departure, he purchased 18 gallons of fuel for a total of 23 gallons between the main (15 gallons) and auxiliary (8 gallons) fuel tanks. He pumped the fuel himself but spilled about 1 gallon in the process. Mr. Troconis said that he then visually checked the fuel, performed a pre-flight inspection of the airplane, and everything was normal.

Mr. Troconis said he departed utilizing fuel only from the main fuel tank. About 45 minutes into the flight, the engine began to run rough and he began to smell a strong odor of fuel in the cockpit. Mr. Troconis attempted to resolve the engine roughness by applying carburetor heat, and pumping the throttle, but to no avail. He was unable to maintain altitude and made a forced landing to a highway. He said during touchdown, the turbulent wind of passing 18-wheelers and other vehicles, made the landing very unstable, and he landed hard, went off the right side of the road and impacted a guard rail.

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