



NTSB MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 4/21/2021
Person Contacted: JEFF LAVES (Pilot Receiving Instruction)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21LA187

Narrative:

The individual noted above provided the following details pertaining to the accident during a telephone conversation:

- The purpose of the flight was to work toward a flight review signoff.
- They had completed a variety of maneuvers and touch-and-goes earlier in the flight.
- During flight in the traffic pattern, while abeam the end of the runway on downwind, the power was reduced to 1700 RPM, but then the RPM dropped to 1200 RPM. He thought that was “weird” and he subsequently moved the throttle lever forward, but the RPMs did not increase. The flight instructor took over the flight controls immediately.
- While gliding on final toward the runway, the instructor realized they were not going to make the runway. The flight instructor attempted to restart the engine by checking several items but had no luck.
- During the forced landing, the airplane clipped trees and eventually stopped in a pond.
- He believed the flight instructor switched the fuel tanks, turned the boost pump on, and ensured the mixture was rich to trouble shoot the loss of power.
- The flight instructor pulled the mixture back and cut off the fuel before the impact.
- He further described that the engine “just went quiet”. He could hear the fuel pump on while in flight, and the propeller continued to windmill.
- The flight was initiated with full tanks. They departed Venice Airport about 1425, and the accident time was about 1705.