



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Pilot Statement

Peter Wentz
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: July 6, 2021

Person Contacted: Shane Popko (Student Pilot)



NTSB Accident Number: ERA21LA267

Narrative:

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

Mr. Popko stated that he and another student pilot conducted a preflight inspection of the airplane and found no anomalies. He and his instructor started the airplane and taxied the end of the runway and conducted an engine run-up with no anomalies noted. They took off from Easton Airport/Newman Field (ESN), Eaton Maryland and stayed in pattern conducting 3 takeoffs and landings before stopping to let the instructor out so Mr. Popko could attempt three solo take-off and landings.

Mr. Popko stated the engine was still running so he didn't conduct another run-up before taking off. He departed runway 4 and stayed in the pattern landing without issue on the second take-off he recalled turning from the upwind leg to the downwind when he could hear a reduction in the power and see the propeller slowing down. He stated he was about 700 ft and had to the "pitch the airplane forward so it would not stall". He stated that he "was looking for a place to land the airplane". He recalled that he was far enough from the end of each runway at ESN and didn't think he could make it back to the airport, so he picked a field and set up for a forced landing. He stated making one last turn before landing with an airspeed of about 60 knots at touch down and then recalls striking a pile of metal on the ground.