



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Douglass Brazy
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

November 2, 2021

Subject: NTSB investigation ERA22LA393, N388RV, Vans RV8, September 3, 2021, Delray Beach, Florida
Information provided by FAA Inspector

On November 2, 2021, Mr. Jahangir Jahangirnezhad, FAA Inspector from the Miramar, Florida Flight Standards District Office, provided the following information via telephone:

The airplane sustained substantial damage to the leading edge of the right wing about mid span, and forward of the right aileron. The left wing sustained substantial damage to the leading edge about mid span, the outboard 2ft of the wing tip, and the center section of the left wing near its root where the landing gear punctured the wing. Both the left and right fuel tanks were damaged, devoid of fuel, with no evidence of fuel leakage or fuel odor.

The pilot reported that the purpose of the planned 30-minute flight from the Palm Beach County Park Airport (LNA), West Palm Beach, Florida to Immokalee Regional Airport (IMM), Immokalee, Florida was to purchase fuel. During the preflight inspection, the pilot was unable to measure the fuel quantity in the fuel tanks with a dipstick, because the fuel was in the lower (rear) area of the fuel tanks due to the "angle of the wing" as the tailwheel airplane sat on the ramp. The pilot estimated that 9-10 gallons remained in "the tank" and that the flight would require about 4-5 gallons. After departing LNA at about 1120, heading westbound, he noticed rain showers developing, diverted to the south, and then decided to return to LNA. During the return, the engine started to "sputter" and he turned on the electric fuel pump and switched the fuel selector from the left fuel tank to the right fuel tank. "After a while" the engine sputtered again, and he prepared for a forced landing. During the landing at a horse track, the airplane struck a railing and was substantially damaged.

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