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Date: July 20, 2022

Subject: ERA22LA312, Synopsis and Excerpt of e-mail by FAA inspector

Contact: FAA Inspector, David Milo @ [REDACTED]

The pilot is in critical condition (intensive care) and the passenger suffered minor injuries. A witness observed the aircraft 'hopping' on the sod runway as it was taking off.ⁱ

"An examination of the engine did not reveal any apparent mechanical faults; the translucent fuel tank was approximately 1/3 full, there was fuel in both carburetor bowls with no evidence of water, although the right carburetor was detached from the right intake manifold. Initially, the aircraft came to rest on its left side and was righted on its gear by first responders. We discovered fuel in the left cylinder and suspect fuel drained from the carburetor into the cylinder while it was laying on its side. All four spark plugs appear to have been operating normally, and engine wiring and the capacitive discharge ignition system appeared to be intact, although there was no way to test it. The battery measured at 17 volts (12 volt battery), so we need a new voltmeter for our go kit. The propeller was damaged in a manner consistent with engine power being applied."ⁱⁱ

ⁱ Summary of e-mail text

ⁱⁱ Direct e-mail quote unedited