



Investigator Name: Leah D. Read
Title: Sr. ASI
Division: Eastern Region

Date: November 7, 2022

Subject: ERA22LA433

Contact: Jason Mikulak, MCO FSDO

SUMMARY OF EMAIL

In an email, FAA Inspector Jason Mikulak stated that the pilot did not initially notify the NTSB or the FAA about the accident, so it was a delayed notification. The pilot had transported his airplane back to his hangar and disassembled it before it was examined by the FAA or NTSB. However, an inspector with the FAA (Joseph Gramzinski) examined the disassembled airplane and found the wing spar was wrinkled.

The FAA also spoke with the Okeechobee Airport Manager, Andrew McBean, and with Mr. Brent Wood, who was Vice-President of Risk, Constructions Partners Inc. who was contracted by the airport to conduct repairs to runway 5. Mr. Wood told FAA Inspector Ed Morales that his employees placed the airport runway closed marker on the grass in front of the runway threshold before the runway had officially closed. The representative said the employees thought that they had permission to do so. It is unknown who might have given them permission.

A NOTAM was issued for the runway to be closed at 0830 on the morning of the accident. Per ADS-B data provided by the FAA, the pilot landed at 0821. Another pilot also struck the marker, but only sustained minor damage to his airplane.