

Eric Alleyne
Air Safety Investigator
AS-Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 3/6/2023

Subject: ERA23FA136, Flight instructor statement and accident discussion

Contact: Keith Kent, Flight Instructor/Witness

According to the Mr. Kent the pilot had not flown in 30 years. A review of the pilot's logbook revealed that the pilot flew last between 1988-1990. The pilot already held a private pilot's certificate but wanted to receive some recurrent training in the PA-22 he had purchased. Mr. Kent stated he conducted four flights (3.9 hours) within two months before he signed off the pilot's BFR on (1/10/2023). The Mr. Kent said he had planned to continue working with the pilot until he felt the pilot was proficient enough to land at the Blue Ridge Airport (57GA). The Mr. Kent stated that the first flight out of 57GA was on 1/24/2023. The pilot never landed at 57GA he would fly over to Martin Campbell Field Airport (1A3), Copperhill, Tennessee, where the Mr. Kent would drive over, give him the car, and then fly the airplane back to 57GA. On 3/4/2023 the airplane was flown from 1A3 where it was fueled with 20 gallons of AVGAS according to the Mr. Kent.

On the day of the accident the Mr. Kent stated that the pilot took off runway 18 and climbed to an altitude of 200 ft. He said the engine sounded like it started to lose power. The pilot made a left turn as though he was attempting to return to the airport when the airplane descended and collided with a tree. The Mr. Kent called for help and went to assist the pilot. When he arrived at the accident site, he observed an undetermined amount fuel spilling from both wings of the airplane. The Mr. Kent mentioned that the airplane had a fuel selector STC, which placed it by the pilot's leg. He was concerned about it because the pilot was large, and his leg rested on the selector.

The NTSB investigator's review of the photos taken by the first responders revealed that the fuel selector was positioned between the right tank and both positions. The area of the fuel selector was also impact damaged.

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