

Dallin Perrins CFI

N8129M fire at starting

11/18/2022

Report

Morning started with a 45 min preheat due to -5 degrees Celsius. There was a preflight along with some deicing. We got in the plane about 7:50 am. As the instructor due to cold temps, I did the starting. I primed about 6 pumps and started once holding starter for approximately 3 seconds, plane almost caught so primed again, but with only a few pumps from the throttle again holding starter for 3-4 seconds. Almost caught again. Shut it down to let started cool off. Let it sit for over a min. Tried same process again, it started to catch more however did shut off after 3-4 seconds. Without prime tried one more time before seeing smoke light smoke from the front. Shut off fuel valve and other electricals, jumped out and our mechanic Vincent picked up his phone immediately and said to aim the fire extinguisher straight up the air intake, meanwhile he called the fire department. Once the fire started to get too big, we backed off to steer clear of danger. After about 2 min when we decided to back off, fire department was on scene. In those two minutes the fire went from the engine to the entire cabin by the time they were they were able to spray it down No one was hurt. Smoke and all debris went with a slight wind maybe 2 knots coming from about 140, the plane being at the end of the line, no other aircraft were affected, no other property damage and no one was injured.

*Joleen from airport operations at Manassas had me fill out a report of what happened.*

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