

28 DEC 2023

Mooney M20C N5587U departed runway 17 around 1:00pm and had a loss of engine power during takeoff. I was moving airplanes in hangar 45 which is around 4,000 feet to the end of runway 17. I heard it sputtering about the time it passed me. It did not sound like a complete engine failure. I immediately thought this isn't going to be good. The gear was retracted and then put back down when engine roughness and loss of power occurred. I ran to the end of the hangar rows and watched it hit the displaced threshold. I heard the tires chirp at impact. The aircraft bounced back into the air and skidded through the grass and hit the embankment about 100ft from the end of the runway. When the aircraft hit the embankment it momentarily became airborne again and cartwheeled into the ground coming to a rest. Both pilots were out of the aircraft when I arrived and the aircraft was becoming engulfed with flames. A person standing nearby was able to get a fire extinguisher sprayed into the cowling but was not effective enough to put the fire out. By the time larger fire extinguishers were on scene the fire was determined to be too large and dangerous to try and be put out with small fire extinguishers. The Fire Department arrived shortly after, controlled the fire and put it out. Paramedics took the pilots and examined the pilots and determined them to have no major injuries.

Benson Milam [REDACTED]
KCZL Lineman