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Date: 3/16/2023
Subject: ERA23LA133, Pilot's Statement
Contact: Francis Albert , Pilot

Below is the pilot's statement regarding his accident events.

"Here is my statement for the incident on Feb 28 at Ebeemee lake flyin.

PA-12 aircraft N4433M was hangered in KIZG on the prior day. Plugged in the engine heater and turned-on hangar heat to 50 degrees F the prior evening of the flight. Arrived at hangar at 8:15 am and preflight aircraft outside temp was -1 degrees F. Started engine without any problems and taxied to the fuel pump to top off fuel tanks. Capacity is 30 gallons each added approximately 10 gallons to each side. Did my normal runup after engine was warmed up and had no issues with the engine. Departed KIZG and flew to Kezar lake approximately 12 nm north of KIZG to pick up my wife at lake house landing on the frozen lake.

Before departing I added more duct tape to the oil cooler to get the oil temp above 120 degrees F. Buckled my wife in the seatbelt harness and departed Kezar lake on the ice. No issues at all with the PA-12. Flew 121 nm to Ebeemee Lake for the fly-in arrived at 10:15am. Oil temp indicated over 160 degrees during flight. We cruised at 5500 for part of the flight. Landed without incident on the frozen lake at Ebeemee. Taxied to park and covered the intake cowling to keep engine warm. At 12:30 we taxied out away from the parking area to let the engine warm up. Did a mag check at lower rpm due to ice and snow without issue prior to takeoff. My plan was to turn to the right staying over the lake to gain altitude prior to departing the area.

The engine developed full power on takeoff to the south into the wind and rotated as normal. Engine quit suddenly at 100 to 150 ft agl. I hesitated to lower the nose to maintain airspeed and bank to the right to avoid trees straight ahead. Aircraft

stalled and impacted ice collapsing main gear and striking right wing on impact. My wife sustained a cut below her sunglasses below her right eye. We both evacuated the aircraft a few seconds later. Took the ambulance to the hospital to make sure my wife did not have any issues with the hardware in her neck from a prior biking injury in 2015. My hesitation to aggressively push the nose forward caused the aircraft to stall when the engine quit.

Francis Albert

