

Inspector Statement

On March 14, 2023 I received a phone call from ROC at approx. 1055 advising a plane had crashed in a cow pasture located in Scottsmore, FL with (1) on board being airlifted to hospital. I arrived on-scene at approx. 1140 and Sgt. Ferrante and Deputy Diaz from the Brevard County Sheriff's office. The fire dept. was starting to leave the scene and they had sprayed foam all over the aircraft and ground to prevent any fire as they extracted the pilot from aircraft as he had to be "cut out" due to the damage from tree impact.

I saw where the aircraft landed heading north in pasture and rolled about 100' then turned Right heading east another 75' and hit a large pine tree with the L/H wing and spinning the aircraft around to where the aircraft rested nose first into the tree.

The NLG detached and was found approx. 60' from wreckage and a few small aircraft pieces found on ground along the path of aircraft touching down and hitting tree.

The police advised the pilot departed Titusville, Spaceport Airport approx. 1000 and then declared an emergency with ATC advising "loss of power" and was trying to land on I-95 but was approx. 1 mile east of I-95 where he landed.

I did not smell fuel at the site nor did I see any ground evidence of fuel, I inspected the fuel selector and it was in the R/H Tank position. I inspected the R/H Main Tank and did not see or smell any fuel, I also inspected the R/H Tip Tank with no evidence of fuel. I inspected the L/H Main Tank and noticed a small amount of fuel and the L/H Tip Tank was empty. The aircraft fuel system was not compromised and no fuel leakage found anywhere.

I took many photos of aircraft and accident scene, personal items were removed and given to police on scene.

Aircraft recovery team arrived on March 15, 2023 approx. 1100 and inspected wreckage then proceeded to remove approx. (2) gallons of fuel from L/H Main Tank and no fuel found in any other fuel tanks. Aircraft wings were removed, engine was already detached from impact, I retrieved a few more personal items (tools, cell phone). Aircraft was loaded on trailer and transported to Florida Air Recovery in Jacksonville, FL.

On March 21, 2023 Inspected aircraft wreckage at Florida Air Recovery with Safety Inspector Jennifer Barclay with Textron and we proceeded to inspect aircraft and engine. There was no fuel in fuel pump or fuel injector lines, the fuel was intact and no damage. The #5 Cylinder was damaged from impact and had low compression compared to the other cylinders. The magneto leads and magneto operated properly and produced spark, all Spark plugs removed and looked good. We inspected aircraft for damage and verified the (2) gallons of fuel that was removed and tested for water with none found.

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