

Inspector Statements PLW and RWF

NTSB ID ERA23LA333

Accident 08/11/23, Port Norris, NJ

CE-172P, S/N 17274119, N5453K

PIC on Scene: John J. Saltzman, Certificate No. Commercial Pilot [REDACTED]

First Responders at scene: Trooper Robinson [REDACTED] / Trooper Sgt Brian Stanker [REDACTED]

Port Norris, NJ Police department [REDACTED]

On 08/11/23, inspectors Robert Fus and Patrick Wilcox performed an accident investigation on a CE-172P, S/N 17274119, N5453K on scene in Port Norris, NJ. After on site discussion with PIC, PIC was enroute to Cape May County Airport, NJ, when he experienced intermittent loss of engine power at 3000 ft. PIC planned to make an emergency landing at Millville Airport, NJ, but diverted in a field in Port Norris, NJ.

Results of the on-scene investigation. Aircraft was found in an inverted position located in a field approximately 50 yards from a residential property (coordinates Latitude 39 14 50N 75 03 29W). The PIC was not injured in the accident.

On-site investigation:

1. No evidence of fuel leaks; no after accident fires. With aircraft upside down, could not verify fuel level in the wing tanks.
2. Propeller damage exhibited slight curling at the tips.
3. Left wingtip, and part of the aileron, severed (after contacting utility pole); found approximately 50 yards from where aircraft came to rest.
4. Front landing gear wheel broke off.
5. Airframe exhibited structural damage to left and right wings and empennage.
6. Damage to Sensenich 76E propeller S/N 104615K, both blades bent; damage noted to propeller spinner, vertical stabilizer, windshields (front and back); engine compartment packed with debris.
7. Fuel Selector was in "Both" position. After discussions with PIC at the scene, the PIC placed the selector in the "Both" position from the "Left" position after the accident.

After on-site investigation, inspectors Fus and Wilcox briefed FSDO management, ROC, and NTSB representative on call Mr. Robert Gretz.

**ROBERT
W FUS**

Digitally signed
by ROBERT W FUS
Date: 2023.10.04
10:33:15 -04'00'

**PATRICK
WILCOX**

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PATRICK WILCOX
Date: 2023.10.04
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On 08/15/2023, inspectors Fus and Wilcox inspected aircraft the aircraft while recovered at Anglin Aircraft Recovery Services in Clayton, Delaware.

Inspection Items:

1. Inspected fuel caps for condition and venting; found satisfactory.
2. Inspected fuel feed system; no discrepancies noted.
3. One (1-inch) crescent wrench was discovered in the engine compartment on the alternator. Flywheel pulley fan blades damaged; engine cowling numerous gouges noted.
4. Compression check conducted on all six cylinders; found satisfactory.
5. Spark plugs found in good condition.
6. Anglin Aircraft Services extracted 1.5 Gallons of fuel from the left-wing tank, and 10 gallons of fuel from the right-wing tank; inspection to the left-wing fuel tank revealed that it was not compromised.
7. Inspected Gascolator; small amount of clean fuel retrieved; fuel filter found in good condition.
8. Engine controls continuity checks found satisfactory on the throttle control and fuel mixture.