



Investigator Name: Leah D. Read
Title: Sr. ASI
Division: ERA

Date: September 26, 2023

Subject: ERA23LA356

Contact: Richard Lambert, Executive Helijet Aviation

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Lambert stated that he is an A&P/IA rated mechanic, and his company was the maintenance group that assisted with the recovery of N3036M.

Mr. Lambert reported that when he arrived on-scene, the airplane had been secured by local authorities and had been pulled toward the shore by bystanders to keep the airplane from going out with the tide. The right main landing gear had collapsed so the airplane was tilted slightly. Mr. Lambert said he was the first person to access the airplane. He noted that the fuel selector was in the "both position", and both fuel "site" gauges were empty. Mr. Lambert also noted that both wings were secure to the airplane, and he noted no ruptures in the fuel system. He observed no visual evidence of fuel sheen in the water and no odor of fuel around the airplane. Mr. Lambert was able to visually inspect both wing tanks by removing the fuel caps and using a flashlight to inspect inside each tank. Both fuel tanks were completely empty of fuel. The airplane was then dragged to shore where he removed both wings - again no fuel was observed or even drained from either tank during the removal process. Mr. Lambert also attempted to drain the gascolator, and only a few drops of fuel came out of the drain.

End of Conversation