

Accident Report

N8257L - Cessna 172H

To: FAA and NTSB representatives

Date: February 20, 2024

By: Doma Andreka, PPL ASEL, AMEL, Sport Endorsement (ASES), Complex, High-Performance endorsements, TT: 1,500 flight hours

Detailed description of the event:

On February 15, 2024 8:30 pm CST local time I departed to relocate N8257L C172H aircraft from KASD to KDED airport. The planned route was KASD-KCEW-54J-KFPY-KDED. Total trip was planned as 466 nm, 3 hours and 45 min at 8,500 ft. The aircraft held 40 gal total fuel, 38 gal usable. For the planned trip I needed 33.75 gal based on the pre-calculation with a little over 4 gal reserve. Aircraft flew great, no issues.

On February 16, 2024, about 20 miles West of DeLand, FL airport at 5,500 ft when I started losing engine power and RPM. Mixture was set full rich, full throttle, checked all fuel tanks, but no luck gaining back any power. Started a shallow decent and best glide speed, contacted 121.5 Emergency frequency. A gentlemen answered in less than 30 second. I told him some information about the situation, but I was already focusing on slowing down and getting ready for the off-field landing.

At 1:40 am I touched down in the Lake George State Forest a few hundred yards from Marsh Rd. Unfortunately, I did not see the road before landing since it was completely dark due to being so far out.

Right after landing I called 911 and the dispatch helped me to find Marsh Rd and gave me directions to walk to the closest intersection.

Around 2:10 am the first Deputy Sheriff arrived at the scene followed by other first responders and Ambulance vehicle. I was transported to the DeLand Advent Health Hospital for treatment and got released at 6: 30 am the same day.

On Monday, February 19, 2024, I returned to work with no permanent injuries or impairment.

Conclusion:

After weeks of hard work, minimal sleep and fatigue I did not recalculate the amount of fuel on board in flight. I thought I should have enough fuel to make it to DeLand. I misjudged it and put myself in this situation which I should never be in. The accident happened due to fuel starvation and stretching the limits for way too much flying at night in a new-to-me aircraft the first time.

February 20, 2024
DeLand, FL


Doma Andreka