

N184VA Inspector Statement

On 04 July 2024, N184VA reported an engine fire on takeoff roll at approximately 0415. Representatives from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) arrived at Deck Airport (9D4) on 08 July 2024 at approximately 1230 to begin the investigation of N184VA, a Piper PA-32RT-300T serial number 32R-7887082. Upon arrival, the aircraft owner greeted the FAA at the hangar of N184VA where it was parked.

Representatives from the FAA began to photograph and document the damage. The aircraft sustained substantial fire damage to the engine compartment area and adjacent nose baggage compartment. The fire consumed a major portion of the upper engine cowling exposing the right side aft section of the engine compartment. The remaining charred engine cowling was removed to gain further access which revealed the majority of the fire and heat damage to have been concentrated in the area around engine cylinders number three and five. Further examination revealed the ignition harness connector at the number two cylinder lower spark plug and the ignition harness connector at the number three cylinder upper and lower spark plugs to be loose, less than finger tight. The ignition harness connector at the number five cylinder upper spark plug was not attached to the spark plug and showed evidence of having been consumed by the fire. The examination also revealed the B-nut on the stainless steel fuel injector line between number five cylinder and the right fuel injector manifold to be loose, less than finger tight. The turbocharger was located aft of this loose B-nut. No other fuel system fittings were found to be loose.

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