



[Draft] incident 10/26/2024 N94981

From

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On 10/26/2024 pilot Jimmie Smith and passenger left Marathon at 10:56 AM returning to Fort Myers KFMY. I picked up the current ATIS approx. 20 miles out that indicated winds 04 @ 7, with the current altimeter, sky conditions, temp, and landing and departing runway 5.

At 10 miles out I radio Page Tower telling them I am 10 miles to the SW inbound for landing and I have the current ATIS. Tower says 94981 continue straight in for a right down wind 13. Upon entering the downwind I see the plane sitting on runway 05, the tower was very busy with other traffic due to the favorable runway being closed due to a damaged plane on the 05 runway. Continuing the downwind Tower ask if I see the King Air and tells me to turn inbound and follow the King Air clear to land number 2. I read back follow king air # 2 cleared to land. On very short final tower says 94981 go around. My conclusion was the King Air had not cleared the active runway even though I could see it starting its turn, however I read back going around 94981.

Tower now has me on a left downwind for 13 and tells me 94981 I will call your base. Me 94981 tower will call my base. Eventually tower tells me to turn base cleared to land 13 whatever number I was at that time. I responded with whatever number I was and cleared to land. I could clearly see my ground speed was faster than normal even though my indicated speed was normal since I was not landing in a head wind. As soon as I landed a gust of wind pushed me off the runway causing me to strike a runway/taxi way sign with the left main gear and the bottom of the left wing. I managed to control the plane in the grass area between runway 13 and Bravo taxi way. I rolled to a stop on taxiway Bravo and the passenger and myself exited the plane. I could see fuel leaking from the bottom of the plane. The fuel was leaking onto the Taxiway and the airport crew put some diapers out to prevent runoff in the grass. The damaged fuel tank was on the left wing and there was approx. 13 gallons of fuel in the left wing upon landing. There were no injuries and passenger and myself stayed on the Taxiway with the airport crew until they towed the plane away. The airport crew drove passenger and myself to the Hangar to retrieve my car.

Jimmie H. Smith



10-31-2024