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Air Safety investigator
AS-Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 7/7/2025

Subject: ERA25LA216- Incident Summary

Contact: Juan Camilo Chiquiza Gomez, Flight Instructor

According to the Mr. Gomez, the purpose of the flight was to enjoy a Sunday lunch in a city I had not previously visited during my days off. My girlfriend and I decided to extend the invitation to Marcos Ottoniel, an English student who resides at our home. Marcos recently validated his Private Pilot License at Atlantis Aviation School, and we saw this flight as a great opportunity for him to observe and become more familiar with IFR procedures while accompanying me on a cross-country flight. It's worth noting that this was my first flight with pilot Marcos.

According to our preflight planning, the flight was intended to be both instructional and recreational, conducted under IFR with planned stops at JAX, FIN, and VRB. All required preflight checks and planning were carried out in accordance with standard procedures, and we departed KFPR with full fuel tanks.

The legs to JAX and FIN were uneventful. A practice instrument approach was successfully completed at FIN before continuing to our final stop at VRB. However, while on approach to KVRB—approximately one nautical mile from the final approach fix at an altitude of 1,500 feet MSL—the engine suddenly lost power.

He said he assumed control of the aircraft, declared an emergency, and performed a controlled ditching. Unfortunately, the aircraft was not recovered, and the exact cause of the engine failure could not be determined. According to fuel records, there should have been adequate fuel remaining at the time of the incident.

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