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**Date:** 10/14/2025

**Subject:** ERA25LA379 – FAA Discussion

**Contact:** David S. Shanahan, FAA Aviation Safety Inspector

Mr. Shanahan was contacted via telephone to discuss the accident of N533SE. The following is a partial summary of that conversation:

Mr. Shanahan stated the pilots flying were [REDACTED]. He stated that [REDACTED] had Kitfox experience. He provided contact information for both.

Mr. Shanahan explained that the airplane was on its first flight by the new owner, as it had recently been purchased. It was brought to Johnstown airport via automotive trailer. The pilots stated the engine was producing power. They performed a mid-runway takeoff because of construction. At 30-50' the certified flight instructor decided to land the airplane on the runway. There was a hard landing and the landing gear collapsed.

Mr. Shanahan explained that he and other inspectors had already inspected the airplane. He stated each tank could hold 12 gallons but the pilots advised him that there was only 6 gallons of fuel in each tank. He stated that the right wing was leaking fuel and the firefighters had applied "dum dum" to seal the cap. He stated there was gear damage and a bent crossbar beneath the seats. He advised that flight control continuity was established. He stated that there was nothing obviously wrong with the engine and that the CFI confirmed it was running fine. Mr. Shanahan did find discoloration of the oil within its reservoir.

Mr. Shanahan performed a thumb compression on the engine. He stated that the pilots had used 100LL and that the propeller was turning under power when it hit the ground and splintered. He explained that the owner told him that the engine had been overhauled 80-90 hours, based on engine time, in the past, however there was no documentation on the overhaul.

According to Mr. Shanahan, the instructor initially said that a weight and balance had not been completed, while the student said it had been completed. After talking with them a second time, both stated that a weight and balance had been completed.