



Investigator Name: Gene Rambo
Title: Air Safety Investigator
Division: Air Safety, Eastern Region

Date: 23 January 2026

Subject: ERA26LA030

Contact: [REDACTED], Catto Propeller Company

I spoke with the witness several times by telephone and email. The witness stated that the pilot had contacted Catto Propellers on or about May 20, 2025 with photos of his propeller that was manufactured by Catto which was exhibiting damage in the hub area. After their review, Catto determined that the propeller was showing heat damage due to the proximity of the engine exhaust pipes. The pilot was told that the propeller was in the early stages of delamination and he was verbally directed by both the witness and the President of Catto that he should not fly with that propeller, and that the exhaust should be routed further from the propeller hub before installing another propeller.

The pilot ordered a two-bladed propeller to be manufactured for him as a replacement. Only after the accident, the pilot asked that Catto overnight the new propeller to him. They were not told of the accident, and they were unaware that he had been flying with the damaged propeller. The witness was not surprised that the propeller had shed part of its metal leading edge, but feels that the vibration the pilot reported was most likely from the continued delamination of the propeller and that total failure of the propeller was imminent. The damaged propeller is now in Catto's possession.