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AS-Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 7/21/2026

Subject: ERA26LA273, Pilot Accident Flight Statement

Contact: [REDACTED], pilot in command

This statement was sent to the FAA inspector via email and shared with the NTSB investigator for review.

"Nathan,

I arrived at Middlebury Airport around 12 o'clock. I untied the aircraft, took the cover off, and did a preflight. In my mind, I had fuel to the tabs. I never checked it visually. I loaded my bags, entered the cockpit, and did the normal startup checklist. After my scan, I checked the fuel gauges; they read three-quarters, and that's the last time I looked at them. The weather reported moderate turbulence below 5,000 ft, so after takeoff I climbed to 9,500 ft. Most of the time I was looking out the window and avoiding clouds in the ascent. Upon reaching 9,500 ft, I contacted Boston and received a squawk. It was smooth, and I had a lot on my mind with my Nantucket problems, and that took the best of me on my phone. When my yoke-mounted GPS said swap tanks, I swapped tanks. I continued to swap tanks until the right one went dry. Now I knew I had a problem, so I aimed for the closest airport, and what I pulled up to was a pond. Then the left tank went dry, and I started to descend. While traveling to that airport, I looked for a place to put the airplane down. It was down at about 1500 ft when I saw a Logging Road. I went over to it, and I was too high, so I made a left circling turn to line back up with it. By then I was really low. I kept the nose of the airplane facing down that road, and I could not go above the trees. When I hit the trees, the next thing I know, things were coming through the side window, and things were really happening. Then I came to a stop. The right wing hit the tree on my

right and took the force, making the fuselage turn 180°. I was close to the ground, and it came to a stop right next to the road. In fact, the wing tip of the right wing was just

one foot into the road. The airplane fuselage was against trees; the left wing was still intact My iPhone was ringing a strange sound, and when I looked, it was the Emergency Services had noticed that I had crashed. I got out of the airplane and walked around with my phone, following instructions to face it toward the satellite. I was able to text, and at that moment a white Toyota pulled up, driven by [REDACTED], and we called 911 and coordinated a meeting with an ambulance and the sheriff.

[REDACTED]."

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