



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Adam Gerhardt
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GAA – General Aviation Accident Investigation

Date: 8/20/15
Person Contacted: Wesley Ortell (Pilot in Command)
NTSB Accident Number: GAA15CA234

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred over the telephone with the pilot in command of the accident flight.

The pilot stated that the accident flight was a local flight and he had flown earlier for an hour twenty minutes, commencing the previous flight with a full tank of fuel. He stated that he flew for about 30 minutes and then the engine failed. The pilot explained that his only option was to land in a thick soy bean field. He said he attempted to fly as slow as possible prior to touchdown. He estimated that he traveled about 50 feet in the field and then the airplane nosed over, coming to rest on its back.

He said he was flying around 1,200 feet above ground level did not lean the mixture back throughout the entire flight. He also stated that the engine was new, so he was flying the majority of this flight at a high RPM. He reported that the winds were calm and the accident occurred around 8:00PM CDT.

The pilot reported that this fuel tank was a 16 gallon tank. He said that he thought he should have had plenty of fuel, but he said that he must have been burning gas at a higher rate than he was anticipating. The pilot stated that he and his passenger sustained minor injuries.