



## RECORD OF CONVERSATION

**Joshua D. Cawthra**  
**Senior Aviation Accident Investigator**  
**Western Pacific Region**

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**Date: November 1, 2016**  
**Person Contacted: James Wirfel – Flight Instructor**  
**NTSB Accident Number: WPR16LA094**

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### **Narrative:**

During a telephone conversation with Mr. Wirfel reported that following an uneventful flight from Rancho Murieta to Hesperia, California, they flew to Apple Valley, California, to refuel. He stated that they topped the airplane off with fuel and flew to Carlsbad, where they dropped two people off prior to departing to return to Rancho Murieta. During the flight, the Mr. Wirfel and student pilot decided instead of their original intended fuel stop at Fresno, California, they decided to refuel in Madera. Mr. Wirfel further stated that during a descent from 6,500 feet to 4,500 feet mean sea level (msl), the engine suddenly lost power. When asked if he had used carburetor heat during the descent, Mr. Wirfel replied “no” and said they did not use carburetor heat during the descent.