



Memorandum for Record

Fabian Salazar
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety – Western Pacific Region

NTSB Accident Number: WPR19TA162
Aircraft Registration & Make/Model: N602BH, Beech 35
Accident Location: Medford, OR.
Accident Date: June 8, 2019

From an email sent by Mr. Jason Lawler, BOI FAA FSDO.

RE: N602BH, Medford, OR. 9 June 19d



Lawver, Jason (FAA)
To: Salazar Fabian

 You forwarded this message on 7/3/2019 10:52 AM.

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Tue 6/25/2019 3:35 PM

Looks like we're talking fuel starvation – pilot error on this. Fuel selector was on Aux, Aux tank was nearly empty, passenger said the engine ran when wobble pump was being used I have a video of the plane running momentarily so engine itself seemed OK. Main tanks had plenty of gas.

Do you have an Accident number on this so I can start writing this up?

Jason



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On June 13, 2019, about 1030 PDT, I spoke with Detective Mark Cromwell, Medford Police. Det Cromwell said the according to the information he received the two individuals from the plane started out about two weeks ago flying from Boise, ID to the Cave Junction area of Oregon. They had issues with the plane in Illinois Valley and took a rental car back to Boise, leaving the airplane back in Illinois Valley. They returned and replaced the starter in the airplane. A mechanic at Illinois Valley stated he saw the two replace the starter. They could not take on all of the fuel that they needed so they took off and flew to Rogue Valley International airport (MFR).

They took on 18 gallons of fuel in MFR then took off and flew to the east. While heading east they experienced engine trouble and returned to MFR. During the return to MFR, the engine quit a few times. They eventually descended to a residential neighborhood about 1 mile short of runway 32 at MFR. The airplane struck a tree and the airplane came to a stop. The two occupants exited the airplane with their cell phones and two bags, or possibly a bag and a jacket made to hold something. They were transported to a hospital. Det. Cromwell stated that the two possessed a strong smell of marijuana, so a search warrant was secured. During the search it was discovered that the pilot had 5.66 pounds of butane honey oil (BHO). Butane honey oil is a marijuana-based product. The passenger was found to have in his possession 10 “hits” of lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). The two were then arrested at the hospital.

Det. Cromwell stated that the two were charged with Importing/Exporting, manufacturing, possession and distribution of marijuana, plus reckless endangerment. He said that these charges were not going to be prosecuted at the state level so the Assistant US Attorney was going to bring Federal charges on them. He estimated that there was between a 90 to 100% possibility of this happening.

Det. Cromwell mentioned in passing that the story was ran in the Idaho press. A person watching the news realized the two individuals were the renters of one of her houses. She went to the house to discover it had been broken into but remnants of a BHO lab remained.

The two individuals have been released from custody and are presumed to be back in the Boise, Idaho area.

POC:

Detective Mark Cromwell: [REDACTED]

Asst. US Attorney: Marco Boccato [REDACTED]

Pilot: Mathew W. Thompson

[REDACTED]
Boise, ID.

Passenger: Zachary W. Moore

[REDACTED]
Boise, ID
[REDACTED]

14 June 19

I spoke with Erick Ramseyer, Portland Flight Standards District Office. He examined the airplane and reported there was about an 8th of a tank of fuel in the auxiliary tank. He said that he spoke with the passenger and the passenger said the pilot started having engine trouble and resorted to pumping up and down on a device that kept the engine running. He said, when the pilot stopped pumping, the engine would quit and when he pumped, it would run. The Beech 35 manufactured in 1947 had a hand operated auxiliary (wobble) fuel pump.

Attempt to contact Pilot and PAX: 17 Jun at 0900, 1006. Neither has voice mail box's set up for their phones.