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Date: 12/27/2020
Subject: WPR21LA075
Contact: Robert Rich

The pilot and two passengers (w/dog) were returning to Lompoc CA from Lake Havasu, AZ when the pilot reported a loss of engine power while in cruise flight at 4000 ft MSL and 20 miles East of destination. The pilot attempted to land at Santa Inez Airport (KIZA) but descended in a forced landing on the West side of the airport. Prior to the landing sequence the pilot attempted to actuate the fuel pump and troubleshoot the loss of power. He lowered the gear, banked right, and pitched up to avoid hitting a tree. The pilot reported the aircraft was definitely destroyed.

VFR, night, full. Switched to his last tank, engine lost power, turned fuel pump on but never recovered full power. Immediately turned towards Santa Inez but didn't make it. After putting the gear down and gaining sight of the ground he aggressively pitched up.

The flight originated from Lake Havasu, AZ at approximately 1700 PST. Pilot and passengers received only superficial and minor injuries. The airplane struck a fence and according to SGT Moss it acted as arresting gear. No fire. Pilot and passengers egressed immediately, and pilot turned master off. No fuel leakage. SBA Co sheriff, fire, and paramedics responded.

Pilot reported 10 gallons of fuel remaining (all in the left tank). Half of the main tank remaining. Pilot filled the airplane tanks in Lompoc same day as crash. Each leg was approx. 1:40 hour in duration. Total fuel capacity and fuel burn rate unknown. Pilot stated that he could have ran the right tank dry. He turned on the electric fuel pump but descended low and had to shift his focus on the landing. The airplane struck the west airport perimeter fence barely missing a large tree. Jeff Culligan, Van Nuys FSDO is on scene 12/28 (day after accident and is meeting with pilot).