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Aviation Safety-Western Pacific Region

Date: August 26, 2022
Subject: WPR22LA166, Phone Interview
Contact: Dennis Keefe, Passenger

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by the passenger in a telephone conversation on this date:

The passenger was picked up by the pilot at Whidbey Air Park, W10, the morning of the accident. About 1200 Pacific daylight time, the pilot landed at W10. Shortly after, about 1215, they departed and headed directly to Ferry County Airport, R49, for a funeral. They landed without incident and remained there for a funeral for about 3 hours. About 1700, they departed R49, in which the passenger believed that they were enroute towards Arlington and Whidbey Island. He later found out that the pilot decided to divert to Enumclaw, WA77, to pick up the pilot's brother-in-law and then head back up towards Arlington Municipal Airport, AWO or W10. While enroute, about 3,000 ft above the ground, the engine quit. The engine restarted for about 30 seconds and lost all power. The pilot stated an expletive and started a glide for a forced landing. The airplane struck trees and impacted a riverbank.