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Air Safety Investigator
OAS-WPR

Date: 12/23/2022@0800pst

Subject: WPR23FA073, N7032X, Cessna 150A, Santa Monica, CA

Contact: Pilot-in-command David P. Smith

The Investigator-in-charge interviewed the pilot-in-command of the accident airplane N7032X. The pilot reported that he and his passenger Rex H. Minter intended to fly to Camarillo, California where they would have lunch with friends and return to Santa Monica Municipal Airport (SMO). However, it was getting late, and they decided to amend their flight to include a local area coastline flight to the north. They entered the airplane and taxied to the fuel station. After topping off the airplane, they taxied to runway 21, but the airplane power felt sluggish. The pilot canceled his takeoff request with the tower controller and taxied back to his hangar. He noted that he had experienced a similar issue many years ago in a different airplane, in which the sluggish feeling was attributed to low tire pressure. They shutdown, checked the pressure, which was not the culprit, and boarded the airplane.

The pilot taxied the airplane and performed an engine run-up. He noted that the mag drop checked out, and that a drop in RPM occurred when the carburetor heat was applied. Given that this was the second runup, he felt the airplane was airworthy and elected to contact tower, and they departed runway 21, intercepted the coast, and made a right turn to the north. Attempting to climb at 70 MPH, the airplane would not climb, and he heard a subsequent "bang" noise. After attempts to identify the issue by ensuring that full power was applied, that the mixture was rich, and that the ignition switch remained in the Both position, the PIC made the decision to make a right turn near Topanga Blvd., and head back to SMO. He contacted tower and announced that he was unable to climb, and that he was returning to land.

Enroute to SMO, the pilot was unable to maintain the airplane's altitude at 70 MPH, and the airplane began to descend. The pilot asserted that his intent was to overfly

the Santa Monica Pier and accomplish a forced landing to the hard sand. However, the airplane contacted the surface where the water met the sand, and the airplane nosed over. He and his passenger were extracted from the airplane by good Samaritans and first responders. He was unable to check on his passenger as first responders began CPR on the passenger and tended to the pilot.