



Joshua Cawthra
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety - Western Pacific Region

Date: October 26, 2023

Subject: WPR24LA023

Contact: Richard Gaines - Pilot

Mr. Gaines, who was the pilot, and co owner of the airplane, reported that they had just finished some work on the airplane, and they wanted to do a test run. Engine startup was good, all engine parameters were good, and magneto drops were equal.

He stated that during takeoff from runway 31, the airplane was a little "lethargic" and began to run rough at 100 ft agl. He looked at the EGTs and saw cylinder 1 and 3 were really low, as if they weren't producing power at all. He performed a 180° turn back to the airport, however, was too high and too fast to land on 13. Mr. Gaines said that he made a left turn to a road and landed on the road.

Mr. Gaines stated that work on the airplane included a condition inspection, and during that time, both of the carburetors were rebuilt by a local mechanic.