



Grant Mills
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: April 22, 2026

Subject: WPR26LA173, Summary of Fuel System Examination

Contact: [REDACTED], Aviation Safety Inspector, Federal Aviation Administration

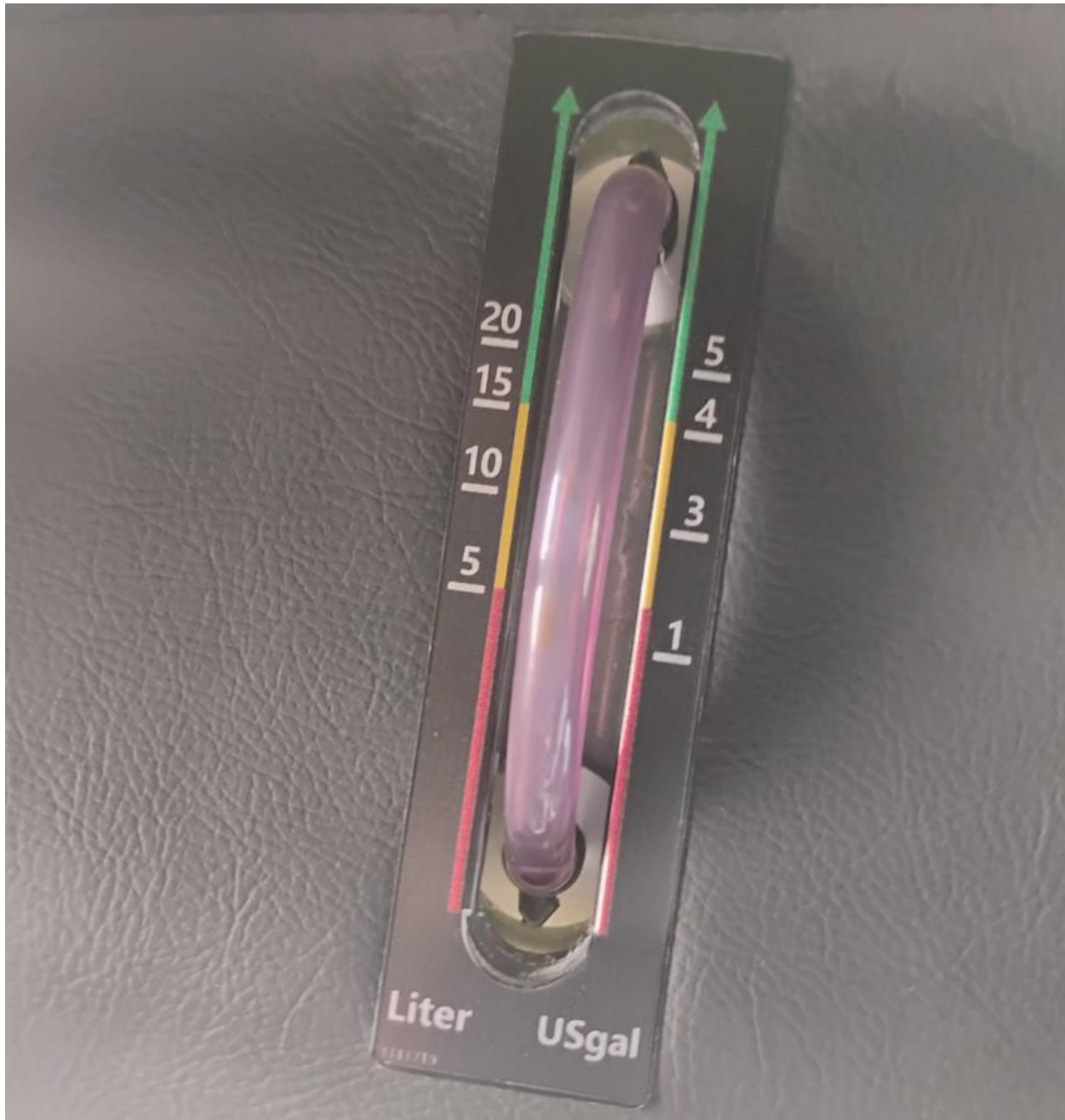
Inspector [REDACTED] reported that the accident aircraft, a Pipistrel Alpha Trainer, N143AW, was positioned inside a hangar at Salinas Municipal Airport (SNS), Salinas, California, at the time of the fuel system examination conducted on April 22, 2026. The fuel sight gauges were observed to have no indication of fuel onboard. The opaque fuel lines were observed and contained no usable fuel. There was no indication or presence of usable fuel observed in the fuel system. About 2 gallons of fuel was added to the right and left wing fuel tanks. The airplane was visually examined, and no fuel leaks were observed from either fuel tank, the fuel system, gascolater, or engine. The inspector noted that the fuel sight gauges were a purple, transparent color, which made it difficult to indicate if fuel was present in the system.



Photograph 1- View of accident airplane (Courtesy of Federal Aviation Administration)



Photograph 2- View of left fuel sight gauge (Courtesy of Federal Aviation Administration)



Photograph 3- View of right fuel sight gauge (Courtesy of Federal Aviation Administration)



Photograph 4- View of fuel lines in the cockpit (Courtesy of Federal Aviation Administration)