



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Daniel P. Boggs
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: May 4, 2018 at 0830 EDT
Person(s) Interviewed: Kyle Botbyl– Flight instructor/friend
NTSB Case Number: ERA18FA138

Narrative:

Kyle Botbyl was interviewed in person at the Greenwood Lake airport.

Kyle stated that Mr. Topp was a friend and he had not seen him in a couple years since he was working in Orlando Florida. Since Kyle returned home, this was the first time he had seen him and stopped to talk. Kyle stated the Mr. Topp told him he was having engine problems and specifically with the magnetos and spark plugs. Mr. Topp stated he was going to go out perform an engine run-up, if all went well with the run-up, then he was going to make a small cross country flight over to Orange County airport and back. This was the last time Kyle spoke to Mr. Topp.



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Date: May 8, 2018 at 1630 EDT
Person(s) Interviewed: Daniel Yates-Mechanic
NTSB Case Number: ERA18FA138

Narrative:

Mr. Yates was interviewed by telephone.

Mr. Daniel Yates (Dan) stated he just started working on Mr. Topp's airplane last year. He stated he performed the annual inspection on N4153R in late June, 2017. This was his first annual on this airplane. On July 4th, Dan stated he received a call from Mr. Topp stating that his engine had a catastrophic failure and needed help changing out the engine at the airport it failed at. Dan helped change the engine on the airport property around the beginning of August.

Dan stated he did not hear from Mr. Topp again until 30 minutes before his last flight. Mr. Topp stated he wanted to stop by and have Dan rotate his main tires on the plane. He did not state anything about a rough running engine.

Dan also stated that Mr. Topp carried his maintenance records on the plane in the luggage compartment since he flew to Haiti constantly and customs personnel needed to look at them.