



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Aviation Safety
Western Pacific Region
March 3, 2016

INITIAL EXAM REPORT

WPR16LA078

This document contains 10 embedded photos.

A. ACCIDENT

Location: Palm Springs, CA

Date: March 2, 2016

Aircraft: Boeing A75N1 (PT17), Registration Number: N63555, Serial #: 75-8914

NTSB IIC: Howard Plagens

B. EXAMINATION PARTICIPANTS:

Howard Plagens
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Investigator-in-charge (IIC)
National Transportation Safety Board
(NTSB)
Federal Way, WA

Rick Hernandez
Aviation Safety Inspector
FAA Riverside FSDO
Riverside, CA

C. SUMMARY

Examination of the recovered airframe and engine was conducted on March 3, 2016, at the hangar at Palm Springs International Airport, Palm Springs, California, by the IIC and inspectors from the FAA.

D. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

1.0 Airframe Examination

The airplane landing gear collapsed, and the airplane was on the ground in a hangar.

Flight control continuity was established for all flight controls; the control surfaces followed manipulation of the control sticks.



Photo 1 Front Cockpit



Photo 2 Rear Cockpit

Blue fluid that smelled like aviation gasoline was drained from the left and right fuel drains from the wing fuel tank. There was no visible contamination. Investigators drained a clear blue fluid that smelled like aviation fuel from the gascolator, and the screen was clear. A water paste test did not change color indicating no water contamination.



Photo 3 Water Paste Test of Fluid from Gascolator

2.0 Engine Examination

The radial engine had seven cylinders with number one at the top, and the numbering proceeded clockwise. The bottom two cylinders (four and five) sustained aft crush damage. All fittings that could be reached were finger tight. A black fluid was evident on the dipstick.



Photo 4 Front View of Engine and Propeller



Photo 5 Right Side of Engine



Photo 6 Left Side of Engine



Photo 7 Top of Engine



Photo 8 Bottom Cylinders

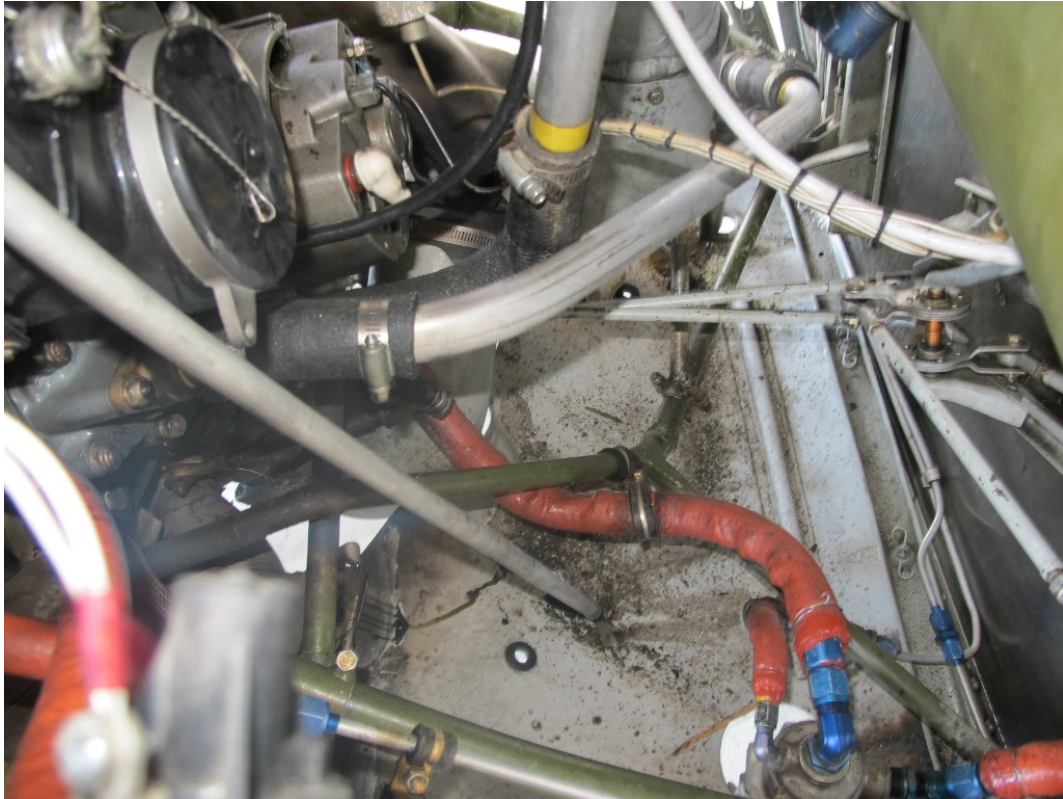


Photo 9 Bottom Cowling Aft of Engine



Photo 10 Charred Aft Section of Engine