



## MEMORANDUM for RECORD

**Ralph E. Hicks**  
**Senior Air Safety Investigator**  
**Eastern Region Aviation**

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**Date: June 26, 2018**  
**Person Contacted: Justin Gierka, FAA Coordinator**  
**NTSB Accident Number: ERA18FA175 – Newburyport, MA**

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This investigator interviewed Mr. Gierka by telephone. He reported the following:

Mr. Gierka traveled to the accident site at Plum Island Airport and examined the airport and wreckage.

There were no scrapes, skid marks, or any other indications that the airplane touched down on the runway surface.

The first indications of touchdown were about ½ way down runway 28 and 200 feet left of the runway, in the grass. About 20 feet beyond the first touchdown point, there were multiple propeller slash marks in the ground. The airplane came to rest in thick brush and woods past the end of the runway. The airplane came to rest at a 10 degrees nose down attitude.

The airplane's propeller and hub were torn away from the engine. The nose wheel was torn away and found 8 feet forward of the main wreckage. There was no fire.

The pilot reported to him that there were no mechanical issues with the airplane prior to the crash.

Mr. Gierka noted substantial damage to the wings and fuselage.

