



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Noreen Price
Aviation Accident Investigator
Alaska Regional Office

Date: January 30, 2020
Persons Contacted: Gary Connell, pilot
NTSB Accident Number: ANC20CA016, N19524 Cessna 150

Narrative: Mr. Connell was contacted by telephone. He was the pilot at the controls of the accident that occurred on October 30, 2020, near Big Lake Airport, Alaska. He was notified that the airplane sustained substantial damage and an NTSB investigation was initiated. This is a summary of his statements.

- Mr. Connell is a private pilot with about 500 total flight hours. He was scheduled to have an instrument check ride soon. He also owns a Mooney M20.
- He had spent the day doing instrument training with his flight instructor in the Anchorage area. After dropping his instructor off at Merrill Airport, he flew to Big Lake Airport (BGQ) to pick up a pilot friend. They flew to Talkeetna Airport VFR and practiced instrument procedures and then returned to BGQ to land and return his friend home. His friend is a pilot who was acting as a safety observer for his flight. His name was Bill Pellet.
- As the airplane descended on a straight-in visual approach to runway 7, about 500 to 800 ft, the engine RPM began to fluctuate, and the engine ran "rough." He adjusted the throttle lever position, but nothing helped. He checked the carburetor heat and observed that he had the lever pulled halfway out. Soon thereafter, the engine completely quit.
- Mr. Connell attempted to make a forced landing on Big Lake Road, but as he descended the left wing struck a tree and turned the airplane around and it landed nose low and then struck a snowbank. The nose gear collapsed.
- He stated that there was plenty of fuel onboard and fuel was leaking at the accident scene.
- Mr. Connell stated that there were no mechanical issues with the airplane that would have resulted in the accident. He stated that the engine quit due to carburetor icing because he did not have full carb heat applied during the descent.
- He does have insurance on the airplane.