



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Aaron M. Sauer
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: October 24, 2017
Person Contacted: Gary Medina – ABQ FSDO
NTSB Accident Number: CEN18LA012

Narrative:

During a conversation with the Federal Aviation Administration inspector who responded to the accident site, the airplane arrived to E98 for refueling the day before the accident after attending a Swift airplane event in Texas. During the subsequent takeoff from E98, the airplane ground looped and sustained unknown damage to the airplane and its right main landing gear. Over the course of that day and the day of the accident, the pilot, who was also a mechanic, completed repairs to the airplane. A portion of the repairs included welding to the right main landing strut assembly, and any additional repairs to the airplane were unknown.

During takeoff from E98 on the day of the accident, the airplane veered to the left of the runway and struck a berm. The airplane became airborne and impacted a steel culvert structure adjacent to the runway. The airplane sustained substantial damage to the fuselage and wings.

Examination of the airplane by the FAA inspector revealed the left main landing gear strut assembly was broken. [REDACTED]

Witnesses, who were initially available and spoke to the FAA inspector after the accident, were no longer cooperating with answering any questions related to the accident.