

From: Hereford Airport
Sent: Tuesday, April 29, 2014 9:56 AM
To: Latson Tom

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I Richard Sanchez work for the City of Hereford in Hereford, Texas. I was filling in at Hereford Municipal Airport on 4/27/14 when I met and talked with the 4 people flying a Piper tail number N8700E. The pilot came into the FBO and visited with me while the passengers used the restroom. The pilot was visiting with me about weather conditions in South Dakota and he stated that it was raining there. We also talked about weather in Hereford and the lack of moisture. He said they were in Hereford to look at Bulls. The passengers came up to the desk and started a conversation about the drought conditions in Hereford and asked if it always this windy in Hereford. My response was yes and no. Spring is usually the worst for high winds.

The pilot then went to his plane and taxied over to the 100LL fuel pump. He scanned his credit card and proceeded to fuel his plane.

The pilot mentioned that when fueling before he left South Dakota for Hereford he only pumped 42 gallons per wing as opposed to the 47 gallons it would hold.

He stated he would top off and not take any chances this time saying he pushed his luck on the trip down.

While the pilot was fueling the passengers were curious about the purpose of the wire, referring to the ground wire. I explained why we use a ground while fueling. I asked if they were all from South Dakota, they replied 'yes'. I repeated to the passengers what the pilot had said the weather conditions were in South Dakota.

The pilot said the only reason they were flying out was because one of the passengers wanted to get back home to see his wife or girlfriend. I do not know names of any of them but the passenger that was anxious to get home was the shortest. This passenger and I held a conversation about common farming practices in our location.

The pilot finished fueling and asked me about radio traffic. He wanted to know if he would be able to hear Amarillo traffic. I told him I had not heard any traffic on the radio today. He said "It looks like we will be the only fools flying in this weather today". He did say once he reached altitude the gusts would not affect them.

He then checked his oil and added a quart. Two of the passengers then cleaned the windshield. The other passenger was busy doing something in the cargo area of the plane. I shook all the passengers' hands and said 'be careful flying home'.

I mentioned to the pilot not to forget his tablet on the counter in the FBO. He came to the office to get his tablet. I shook his hand and they departed.

I did not hear him call for clearance or ask about Hereford traffic on the radio before he departed. I noticed he had problems with the wind on take-off. He departed on Runway 20. Once his plane was airborne a gust of wind pushed him back down and the wheels touched the runway and the plane dipped to the right side a bit. He recovered and then departed.

Richard Sanchez

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