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Subject: ERA24LA194 - Pilot's Statement to the FAA

Contact: Brian Woodhams - Pilot - Email

The following is an excerpt from an email from the pilot to the FAA regarding the accident:

On April 26th 2024 I Went to fly my plane from Hornell to Canandaigua Airport for its annual inspection. I arrived at the airport. Started loading the plane up with all the things that I needed To do my owner assisted annual inspection. I pulled out my ADSB receiver from the plane and set it on the top of the plane by the fresh air vent. I always set it in the hat rack in the back on a velcro patch after powering it up. I continued to load the plane with my Hand tools, grease guns Cordless impact driver and drill, Case of Philips XC20w50, 2 rolls of shop towels, couple cans of corrosion X, Can of parts cleaner, New Spinner with front and rear bulkheads, New alternator belt, Bruce's plane cover and a Foam mat to lay on while working under plane. There are some things im sure I am forgetting about. As i was loading up the plane the ADSB receiver fell off the top of the plane to the left side and hit the ground. I walked over and picked it up and was looking it over. I noticed the white housing was cracked and I set it on the wing as I only had just a few more things to load into the plane and didn't want to forget anything i needed.

I completed my preflight check sumped fuel and checked quantity. I had 35 gallons on board. I then pulled my plane out put tow bar in the back with my tools. Went to start up my ADSB receiver and i would not work. I played with the power cord from the external battery pack plugging it in and out a few times. Tried for a few min to get it to work. Would not power up so I had it in my hand and boarded the plane. Set it on the front passenger seat with my cell phone. Started my plane went thru pretaxi checks. I then placed the ADSB receiver in the back seat. Not sure where it

went i just reached behind me without looking and kinda placed it back there with the rest of the stuff. Made sure passenger seat belt was buckled up and tighten down to the seat. Placed my cell phone on my lap.

Started taxiing from hanger and there was a yellow Vans RV that was ready to taxi also. He started taxiing and did a mid field departcher from taxiway C i think it was. I continued by him to the end of 18 for a full length departcher. As i was taxiing I asked him what direction he was heading out and he replied he was going to canandaigua. I told him back I was going to Canandaigua also and would be right behind him.

Got to the end of runway stopped before corner and started doing my runup checklist. Checked mags and the engine interments. Lastly pulled the prop 1 time looked for oil pressure drop. Pulled a 2nd time looked for manifold pressure and RPM drop. As I pulled the 2nd time i noticed a smell that was not normal. Went back and checked my mags again. All was normal so went to pull the prop a 3rd time and look for oil on windscreen. As i looked out i saw smoke above my head so i turned around lifted the Plane cover that was in the back seat and saw orange flames.. I turned and pulled the mixture. I dont remember if I turned off master but i then tried to get out but still had my seat belt on. I struggled to get my seat belt off.. I was trying and trying but could not get it. I remember stopping and putting my hands up then went back to the seat belt and get it right away. I opened the door got out and jumped down off the wing. turned around and hopped back up reached in to pull the cover out but flames wrapped around my arm so i pulled my hand out. reached back in but it was so hot already i couldn't grab the cover. I jumped down looked for my phone couldn't find it so i was getting ready to run back to the FBO and i saw a truck coming down an adjacent road. I started waving my arms and jumping up and down. The person stopped and asked if i needed help. I said call the fire department or 911. The person said OK. I waited there till help arrived.

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