

My name is Andrew Hilliard, and I'm a student pilot through Old School Aircraft. On Monday, June 28, 2021, I took off from McKellar-Sipes regional airport at about 3:45 PM in Cherokee 818TF. My plan for the day was to practice flight maneuvers and landings. First, I practiced flight maneuvers around 3,000 ft anywhere from 8-12 miles west of the airport, following I-40. Next, I diverted to the Humboldt airport to practice landings. Then, I re-entered the practice area, west of the airport, to continue flight maneuvers. I noticed a loss in RPMs and the engine became idle. I contacted the Jackson tower and let them know where I was and that I was going to have to emergency land in a field. I tried to keep the plane at glide speed while also pumping the throttle a few times to try and regain RPMs. I had no success in this, so all of my focus shifted to setting up for a landing. I pulled out carburetor heat and aimed for the closest, largest field I saw. I knew I was going to have to clear a tree line and avoid an irrigation system to land safely. As I came upon the trees, I could tell airspeed was decreasing and the stall light came on just before the nose hit some treetops, and I went down along with the plane. Once I had come to a stop, I turned the fuel pump, master, and I believe the mags off before opening the door to get out of the plane. I was on the wing when I saw my phone, iPad, and logbook, which I stepped back in to grab. I called my parents to let them know what happened and that I was ok. I jumped into a ravine and walked down it toward the highway. I was on the phone with my instructor until I thought I was close to a highway. I climbed out of the ravine and was in a yard, but I stood by a guard rail until a woman stopped and called an ambulance for me. After I took off from McKellar, I did not lean the mixture any. When I checked the fuel during pre-flight, the fuel level was just below the tabs in each wing. Throughout the flight, I did not switch fuel tanks.