



**Eric Alleyne**  
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**National Transportation Safety Board**  
**Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern**  
**Region**

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**NTSB Case Number: ERA21LA392**

**Aircraft: Piper PA-16 N5656H**

**Accident Date: 9/30/2021**

**Pilot/Owner: John M. Lyman**

**Subject: Telephone interview with  
the pilot/owner after accident event**

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The statement below was taken after the accident event by the NTSB IIC. The airplane was examined by a FAA inspector prior to this statement.

In a telephone conversation with Mr. Lyman, he stated that he and his friend went to inspect, and test fly an airplane before purchase. He said they filled the fuel tanks and conducted a short test flight. He said the test flight lasted about 30 mins and after the flight he purchased the airplane. He returned the next day and said that his friend purchased the fuel, but he doesn't know how much fuel was put in the tanks. He stated that the fuel tanks were checked before departing and they looked full. After departure he climbed to 4,500 ft and was aloft for 3 hrs. using both the left and right tanks for 1:30 mins each. The engine quit and he restarted it, but it only ran for a few minutes before stopping again. Mr. Lyman made an emergency landing on a logging road. After landing he checked both fuel tanks and both were empty. He said that his friend put the fuel in the tanks and doesn't believe he filled it up. I asked did he have the fuel receipt from his friend, and he said he did not.

The event was not considered an accident at first because there was no damage observed. After the pilot's mechanic removed the engine for a sudden stoppage inspection, the engine mount and firewall was discovered damaged.