



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator, IIC
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: July 15, 2021

Pilot Statement: Andrew Hilliard [REDACTED]

NTSB Accident Number: ERA21LA273 – Woodland, Tennessee

The following pilot statement was provided by Mr. Hilliard via telephone conversation.

- The fuel level was “just below the tabs.” His instructor was with him during the preflight and agreed that the tanks did not need to be topped. He thought the tanks were about equal. He did not recall looking at the fuel gauges or recalling what they indicated. When asked if he knew many gallons were in each tank, he responded “not exactly.”
- The PA-28-180 had 25-gallon tanks each side.
- Mr. Hilliard was asked about “sticking the tanks.” He was unfamiliar with the procedure.
- He planned to fly for 2 hours.
- When asked when he was planning to switch tanks, he responded that he didn’t know, it just slipped his mind.
- He flew full rich the entire flight, did not lean the engine. It burns about 8 gal/hr.
- Mr. Hilliard was asked if he understood what happened, and he responded that he failed to pay attention to how much fuel he had in the right tank and allowed it to burn out.