



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Aaron M. Sauer
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: August 24, 2020
Person Contacted: Pilot – Matthew Leggett
NTSB Accident Number: CEN20LA361

Narrative:

During a conversation about the accident circumstances, the pilot stated he had a normal engine start and run-up prior to departure. About 30 minutes into the aerial observation flight, the engine began “popping”. The pilot contacted his maintenance staff via a cell phone for troubleshooting suggestions. Maintenance advised the pilot to return to his home airport. Based on the airplane's location relative to the runway orientation, the pilot performed a downwind landing. During the approach, the airplane was "a little high and fast;" however, the pilot was committed to the landing due to the reduced engine performance. The airplane touched down, overran the end of the turf runway, impacted a ditch and came to rest upright.

The pilot described the damage to the airplane as “totaled” with significant damage to both wings and fuselage. The wings were buckled after contact with airport signage and fuselage crushing during the ditch impact.