



Airfreddy's Flying Stories

Stories That *All Pilots* Can Learn From

Story #6: New Engine Not To Worry?

NEW ENGINE NOT TOWORRY?: I will make this one pretty short, but I am telling you because sometimes we get comfortable and have no worries. You want to remember, with flying you have to be in a mindset to expect a problem.. Though flying is very much safer than driving, you can't just pull off the road when something happens.

I had a C-152 Aerobat and the engine was due to be overhauled, so I pulled it off the flight line and we started working on it. We went thru the entire plane. I replaced the plastic inside, replaced a bunch of the instruments, painted the front end and yes rebuilt the engine.

When the plane got back on the flight line she was the best looking plane in the fleet. The first month it flew with no problems.

One day one of my instructors had a student going on a long cross country— Yuma, Blythe and back to Falcon Field and he took the newly rebuilt plane .I always had a habit of calling the flight service station to checkup on students. About the time I was about to call the flight service station, the phone rang. It was the flight service station. The briefer told me the student had to do an emergency landing on a road because of an engine failure.

I ended up getting into one of my other planes with one of our other students and headed off to Yuma to get the student and take a look at the plane. When we got

there I pulled the cowling off and found that one of the new cylinders had come apart in flight.

The student said that it started to run rough, so he called flight service and then it quit so he landed on the road. I eventually got the tapes of the incident. The student did everything right. The only thing I would have done differently would be to land sooner. He did pass an airport off his left side a few miles before. The engine was running rough for about 15 minutes before it quit. If I were a student I probably wouldn't have done anything differently.

In all of my time flying and flight training this was the second time I had seen an engine all out quit. We all hear the stuff on the news but I am just saying in my circle of flight schools and experience this was the second time I had seen it. (This in 20 years). While this doesn't happen very often it could happen at any time and it is something you should expect to happen.

So just don't get comfy if you are in a plane with a brand new engine. You might want to be a little more ready. If the engine has over 250 hours chances are it will not have any problems.



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