

From: Wes Kufeld [REDACTED] >

Date: August 11, 2016 at 9:28:49 AM MDT

To: Kufeld Wes [REDACTED]

Cc: Kufeld Wes [REDACTED]

Subject: Plane accident on July 31st

Good Morning Chuck

Below is my statement you requested on the accident, Sorry if it sounds like a police report.

On the morning of July 31st, at about 8:00 am, myself and six other guys were ending our week long fishing trip in Alaska by flying from the Alaskan Adventures lodge back to Aniak, to catch our commercial flight to Anchorage.

At that time, Randy the pilot spent considerable time checking our personal body weights and gear weights. Randy also spent considerable time doing a instrument check of the plane, physically touching the switches and instruments. This was the first flight of the needed two flights to get everyone to Aniak.

I was comfortable flying with Randy as I had witnessed his level of care and skill for the passengers as well as the plane that week on the fishing trip. Present on the plane were five people total including the pilot.

Once Randy completed his safety checks, we taxied to the end of the runway, turned around and started to power up. We traveled down the runway picking up speed, I suspect full speed, started to lift off when I felt the plane, once airborne, take an immediate right, then again an immediate hard left where we lost altitude and crashed into the trees on the left side of the runway. Once in the trees and bushes, the forward momentum path we were on, still kept us moving now in a reverse direction through the trees, the plane now facing the opposite direction. At the point we came to rest, I did not witness any smoke fire or smell fuel. We exited the plane and felt fortunate to not have sustain any serious injuries.

I have thought about that situation multiple times trying to figure out what happen and why. From my position in the plane seated in the far back right, I was unable to see the foot peddles, steering wheel or some of the instrument panel.

Once out of the plane, the owner arrived on a four wheeler, looked at the plane, he asked us to take as many photos as possible, which I did.

I did observe that the landing gear was protruded through the inside floorboard on the passenger side of the plane. I also observed a tire and a piece of the what I suspected to be the tip of wing lying on the grassy area of the runway. I also observed a large gouge in the dirt and grass where those items were laying in the grass.

The only injury to any passengers was myself with a right shoulder pain resulting from what I suspected hitting the inside wall of the plane. That shoulder pain, as of the date (08-11-16) is still felt but getting better as time goes on. I did not seek medical attention.

We feel fortunate this crash had a successful result with not fatalities or serious injuries. I credit Randy for his ability to keep us safe.

Wes Kufeld

