

Marcus D. Roulet
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Date: August 13, 2016

RE: Witness Statement

During a pleasure flight on August 13, 2016, I witnessed the fatal accident of N9541S. The details of what I observed follow:

A friend and I were flying in a helicopter from Merrill Field to the northeast, and were approximately ½ mile(s) east of the Birchwood Airport. Due to our proximity to the airport, we were monitoring the Birchwood CTAF frequency 123.0. I heard a radio transmission from a male voice stating he was taking off on Runway 02R, and would make a right turnout. Given that this would put the airplane turning in our general direction after take-off, we were diligently watching for it. I saw the airplane while it was still over the airport, and it appeared lower than what I would expect. The airplane began the right turn very near the airport (very early crosswind turn), and again, appeared low. The bank of the right turn appeared steep considering the low altitude of the airplane. At approximately 90 degrees into the right turn, I heard a male voice transmit over the CTAF, and the words were “Oh Fuck”. Almost immediately after the radio transmission, the airplane appeared to stall and enter a very nose down attitude. I saw the descent until well below the trees, however I did not see the actual impact due to buildings and trees obscuring the view.

I landed the helicopter at the northeast corner of the Birchwood Airport, at the closest safe landing area. The other occupant of the helicopter used my cellular phone and called 911 while we were descending to land. She was initially placed on hold, but was able to speak with someone and inform them of the event, and the location.

After landing the helicopter, I exited, with the portable fire extinguisher, and proceeded to the accident site. The site was approximately 200 yards from my landing site.

The airplane was engulfed in flames, and it was apparent that there were likely no survivors. A short time after I arrived, Anchorage Police Officers arrived on scene.

Please contact me at your convenience for answers to any further questions you may have.