



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Noreen Price
Aviation Accident Investigator
Alaska Regional Office

Date: March 13, 2017 AST
Person Contacted: Douglas and Janice Doherty, Nome witnesses
NTSB Accident Number: ANC17FA018, N736AS

Narrative:

On March 13 at about 1130, I conducted a phone interview with Mrs. And Mr. Doherty in regards to witnessing the low passes of N736AS on March 5 over Nome. Mrs. Doherty had posted a video of the airplane flying low over Nome on Facebook the evening of the accident.

Mrs. Doherty said that on March 5 at 2150 she heard a piston airplane flying overhead. She was concerned because the weather was bad. She and her husband drove to Nome Airport to see if any of their friends were up flying. Then they drove to Cemetery Hill to watch the airplane and help in any way. They called Nome FSS to say that an airplane needed help and to make sure the runway lights were on bright. They drove to another rental house of theirs and at 2208. Mrs. Doherty videotaped the airplane flying overhead. They originally thought the plane was going to Nome airport, but then realized it was Nome City Field, so they assumed it was on skis. Mrs. Doherty videotaped each fly over at 2150, 2200, and 2208. The airplane is audible in the first two videos, but not visible. The third video shows the plane flying over their house.

Mr. Doherty owns and operates a Cessna 180 and has accrued about 20,000 flight hours. He said the engine of the overhead airplane sounded normal and the navigation, strobes and landing lights were on. He said that they assumed the pilot was going to the main airport because no one would attempt to land at the unlit City Field at night, particularly in those conditions. He was concerned that the pilot was making circular patterns around the airport, vice controlled straight in approaches. When the airplane departed to the east, Mr. Doherty thought it may be heading for White Mountain Airport which is 60 nm to the east at a higher elevation that may have been above the coastal fog layer.