



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Investigator name: Shaun Williams
Mode: Air Safety Investigator
Region: Alaska

Date: 24 August 2017
Person Contacted: Stephen Ridgeway
NTSB Accident Number: ANC17FA047

Narrative:

On August 22, 2017, about 1100 Pacific daylight time, a Rockwell S-2R, N5022X, impacted terrain about 9 miles east of Calipatria, California. Mr. Ridgeway witnessed the accident and relayed the following information during a telephonic interview on 24 August about 1920 Pacific daylight time.

Mr. Ridgeway was an irrigation technologist and was about 100 yards from the accident when it occurred. He observed the accident airplane complete an agricultural spray pass from west to east. As the airplane approached his position, the airplane began a right turn to turn around and re-enter the spray area. Following a slight right turn, the airplane rolled wings level before what would typically be a left turn back to the field. When the wings were rolled level, at an estimated altitude of between 150ft above ground level (agl) and 200ft agl, the nose dropped and the airplane impacted the field in near vertical attitude. Following the impact, a fire ignited and consumed the wreckage.

During the accident sequence, Mr. Ridgeway was inside his truck with the air conditioning running and was unable to discern engine noise.

The digest was reviewed with him/her during the phone call and he/she agreed with the content.

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