



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Investigator name: Shaun Williams
Mode: Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Region: Central

Date: August 9, 2022
Person Contacted: Lucas Merrill
NTSB Accident Number: ANC21FA065

Narrative:

On July 26, 2021, about 1320 Alaska daylight time, a Cessna 172P airplane, N65698, was substantially damaged when it was involved in an accident near Eagle River, Alaska.

Mr. Lucas Merrill was the Vice President of Angel Aviation Inc. at the time of the accident. He stated that he thought it was about 1500 on July 26, 2021 that he suspected something had happened with N65698. At that time, he departed Merrill Field (MRI), Anchorage, Alaska, in a Piper Seneca and searched for about an hour before returning to MRI to add more fuel. He then departed again in the Seneca with another pilot departing in a PA-14 to search. He stated that the accident flight was not supposed to be going to Girdwood, but the student's boyfriend was in Girdwood and they had discussed "flying by eachother." He stated that it was possible the flight was going to fly near Crow Pass to Girdwood and then the Knik Arm back to MRI.

When asked, he stated that it was typical to extend a discovery flight if the airplane was not scheduled right after the discovery flight.

Following the accident and being informed of the ELT discrepancy, he stated that Angel Aviation went back through each aircraft and checked for the proper ELT, tested each one and made logbook entries corresponding to the inspection.

END OF INTERVIEW