



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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

Date: August 9, 2022
Person Contacted: Sierra Bauder
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.

Mrs. Bauder, spouse of the accident flight instructor (CFI), stated that she worked for Angel Aviation at the time of the accident and was the person who scheduled the accident flight about 1-2 weeks before the day of the flight. She scheduled the flight to take place from 1200 – 1400. The CFI had a flight lesson scheduled for 1500 at Elmendorf Aero Club, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Anchorage, Alaska and she had also planned to go flying with her spouse later in the evening on the day of the accident.

When she had not received a call from him about 1500, she checked her Life360 Inc. © application, which showed the airplane's last location in the Eagle River Valley with a tracking time of 1319. She then called Angel Aviation to inquire about the status of the flight and was informed that the airplane was not parked on the ramp and her spouse's vehicle was still there. She said the airplane was scheduled for another flight at 1530 and although it was not unusual for pilots to stay out past their scheduled arrival time if there was not someone else scheduled right after them, it was unlike her husband to be late for another lesson. The person she spoke with at Angel Aviation told her they would go and look for the airplane. She said that she later found out that Lucas Merrill and his brother went out to look for the accident airplane. When asked she said that she was told they had to wait a certain amount of time before helicopters could go out searching.

Mrs. Bauder said the route of flight for a typical discovery flight, like the one scheduled, would be over the Knik glacier, down Eagle River Valley and back towards Merrill Field. She was unsure why Girdwood would have been listed on the Alert Notice (ALNOT) as the destination.

END OF INTERVIEW