



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Jennifer Rodi
Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Person Contacted: Inspector Shane Benedetto – Baton Rouge FAA FSDO
NTSB Accident Number: CEN14LA379

Narrative:

During conversations with Inspector Benedetto, he stated the following:

One witness, the Sheriff, lived close to the accident location. He observed the airplane flying over the lake and then make a turn towards him. He lost sight of the airplane due to the trees. Shortly thereafter he heard the airplane crash but did not see the impact.

The owner of the airplane stated that the pilot was taking aerial photographs of some land that the owner was interested in purchasing.

The airplane met the requirements for a light sport airplane. The airplane did not have an “N” number and was never registered with the FAA. Inspector Benedetto stated that the owner of the airplane, Mr. Keeth, purchased the airplane a year ago. The previous owner told Mr. Keeth that it was experimental and if there were two people on board he would have to register it. There were no maintenance records for the airplane.

The airplane appeared to have struck the tree before hitting the ground. The flight controls were continuous and the engine and propeller assembly remained attached to the airframe. Both wings were bent and wrinkled, the fuselage was crushed, and the windscreen and instrument panel were broken. He stated that the propeller was damaged but remained attached to the engine. The inspector stated that there were no mechanical anomalies with the airplane or the engine that would have precluded normal operation.

The pilot did not hold any pilot certificate or airman medical certificate.