

From: [Kramer Donald](#)
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Subject: Materials Laboratory Factual Report, Email - Humbolt, IA - Erickson RAF 2000 GT - CEN15LA344 - August 9, 2015
Date: Thursday, September 10, 2015 9:24:36 AM

ACCIDENT INFORMATION:

Place: Humbolt, Iowa

Date: August 9, 2015

Vehicle: Erickson RAF 2000 GT, N315LK

NTSB No.: CEN15LA344

Investigator: Michael Folkerts, ASI-CEN

COMPONENTS EXAMINED:

Fragments from three (3) composite propeller blades fractured in multiple locations;
Propeller hub with retained root ends of the three fractured propeller blades.

DETAILS OF THE EXAMINATION:

Fragments from three composite propeller blades were received by the NTSB Materials Laboratory that were fractured in multiple locations. The larger fragments were laid out on a table and the fracture profiles were used to reconstruct the blades as much as possible. All of the blades exhibited one or more fractured fragments near the root end followed by long spanwise pieces of 13 inch, 17 inch, and 18 inch for pieces that were labelled, "tree," "site," and "road," respectively. The outboard end of each long piece exhibited damage to the leading edge of the blade, consistent with impact damage, and fracture and disbondment of the leading edge abrasion strip. Outboard of the long pieces, the blades were fractured, the two blades labelled "tree" and "road" being fractured into multiple fragments. Finally, the corresponding blade tips for all three blades were identified. The smaller fractured fragments and the blade tips were all reportedly found at or near the main crash site. Examination of the blades did not reveal any apparent anomalies or deficiencies with their composite structure.

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