

Silliman James

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 19, 2017 9:24 AM
To: Silliman James
Subject: FW: Statement

Passenger statement

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeff Jorgenson [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 6:17 PM
To: Robbie Grayson
Cc: Jeffrey Jorgenson; Hoben, Brett (FAA)
Subject: Statement

There I was...

The weather was good and the take-off was uneventful and enjoyable. At about the 20 second mark in the video, I noticed a change in the sound, like a decrease in RPMs. Not having flown a gyro before, I had no reference as to whether this was normal. As I continued to video for about 40 more seconds, I felt like we were slowing down and the pilot seemed to be very focused. Much more so that I would expect for someone who had been a pilot for a year and who was merely giving a ride around the patch. At 1 minute I discontinued the video and decided to try to become engaged in the flight. I asked the pilot some pertinent questions about the panel display and he said he thought we were losing power and he began running through a mental checklist, checking the throttle, fuel selector, and other instruments and gauges. I started looking for a place to land and noted a deep ravine with tall trees directly in front of us. We were at about 500'. I then noticed a field along our right side and recommended we land there. He began to try to turn which seemed to accelerate our descent. I observed some power lines and pointed them out to the pilot who indicated he saw them but was trying to maneuver around them, to no avail. I watched the power lines as we drew closer and I realized we were imminently going to hit them. I braced for possibly being flipped over or jolted, but the line broke and we landed sternly in the ditch between the field and the road. The smell of fuel and then smoke heightened the urgency to climb out and get clear of the aircraft. The pilot turned off the engine and then the fuel. With some assistance I helped the pilot get free of his seatbelt and then get upright as the aircraft was laying on the side I was on. He climbed out and then I followed. As I was exiting the aircraft, I observed the Airport manager coming down the hill towards us, and a small fire about 20 yards away, probably started by the downed power line. We were OK.

Best,
Jeff