



The National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety
Central Region
Memorandum for the Record
Witness Statement
CEN18CA080
Erie, Colorado
January 18, 2018

Witness Statement of Michael J. Lepper:

(Uncertain of precise time of accident, but exact time can be obtained from Denver Center records) At approximately 1600 while flying with a student in N4633J, a Cessna 172, my student and I heard a transmission on Erie CTAF (123.0) stating "Erie traffic, yellow trike, I'm in trouble." At that time, I asked the yellow trike if we could be of any assistance. He stated that he was trying to turn to base leg. Since we were ahead of him on downwind and starting our base turn, I transmitted that we would be going around to the outside to give him right of way. We heard no further transmissions from him, but I took control of our aircraft and slowed down to monitor his progress in front of us. The trike pilot established himself on base and turned final. He appeared to have the aircraft under control on a steep final approach to runway 33. While the trike descended past around 100 feet, it began a turn to the east. and approached a grassy area to the right of the runway. The trike appeared to be near wings level when it struck the ground and flipped.

I transmitted on 123.0 several times to inform the FBO of the accident and request they call for an ambulance. Since there was no response on local frequency, I contacted Denver Center on VHF guard (121.5) to inform them of the accident at Erie Municipal/KEIK and request the notify first responders. Denver Center responded and asked that I stay on frequency and orbit to provide them further information. After orbiting for a short period, I informed them of responding vehicles and stated that I would be landing, as I anticipated runway closure. The responding vehicles remained clear of the runway, and I landed without incident. If you have any questions, I can be reached at [REDACTED]

Michael J Lepper

Alexander Lemishko

[REDACTED]

Senior Air Safety Investigator
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