



The National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety
Central Region
Memorandum for the Record
Witness Locations and
Statements
CEN19FA009
Fulton Missouri
October 17 2018

A diagram was created with the approximate locations of witnesses in proximity to the accident site. The witness locations are labeled 1-4 and their statements are summarized below the diagram.



Witness #1 - 1.45 miles to crash site
Keith E West



Keith stated that he just saw the news report of the helicopter crash and was sure he was a witness to the onset of the crash. Keith stated at approximately 2:30 p.m., him and his brother, Kevin West, were golfing at the Fulton Country Club. Of geographic reference, the club is a short distance, due west of the crash site. Keith stated the helicopter came over the club at a low altitude, especially for the city. Keith stated as the helicopter continued east, it appeared to be traveling just over the tree lines. Keith stated as the helicopter was nearing the Potawatomi area, he noticed the helicopter was then operating in a small circle. Of reference, Keith's family owns land adjacent to Potawatomi so he is overly familiar with this landmark. Keith stated from the circling

motion, he assumed the pilot was merely viewing something of attention. Keith stated just after seeing the helicopter in the circle motion, he heard a loud noise. Keith was adamant the loud noise was while the helicopter was still in air and not of an impact crash noise.

Witness #2 - .57 miles to crash site

Curt W Houchins

[REDACTED]

Curt advised he saw a black and orange helicopter and heard the engine stop. The helicopter was too high for Curt or Charles to read any numbers on the aircraft. The helicopter began to lose altitude quickly and began to spin, in a downward spiral and quickly disappeared below the tree line. Curt pointed north east as he described the location he noticed the helicopter initially and then pointed over his head and ended pointed south east, as he described the path the helicopter took as Curt noticed, "he lost a propeller" and said that the "blade quit" and "sputtered three times." Curt denied seeing anyone or anything separate from the aircraft prior to the aircraft disappearing into the trees. Curt is familiar with the area he believed the aircraft would be recovered, as he has property that shares a border with Potawatomi property. Curt was specific as he gave the location as 'between Glover Lake Springs and Bartley'.

Aircraft from MSHP and a Staff for Life helicopter arrived in the area to assist with the search of the downed aircraft; no smoke or fire was visible or being reported by citizens in the area. Curt advised the red and white helicopter was close to where he saw the helicopter go down. The crash site was located shortly after.

Witness #3 - .91 miles to crash site

Dennis Shrock

[REDACTED]

Saw the helicopter flying in the area and making turns and seemed to be having trouble.

Witness #4 – 1.1 miles to crash site

Benjamin Crawford

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Crawford stated that he was playing handball when he saw the helicopter got down. Crawford stated that the helicopter caught his attention and when he noticed the helicopter, he saw it traveling from left to right and generally towards him. Crawford stated that he observed the helicopter was at an approximate 45-degree angle with the nose of the helicopter pointed downward. Crawford stated that he could hear the helicopter and it sounded like the blades were turning slowly. Crawford demonstrated with his hand that the helicopter was making a circular motion along its long axis, but not a spiral motion, as it flew towards the ground. Crawford

stated that he saw the helicopter in the air for about three to five seconds before it went out of sight behind trees. Crawford stated that he then heard a sound of car crash. In speaking to Crawford further about his location at the time, he stated that he was at the handball court and when he saw the helicopter, it was generally behind a nearby cell phone tower. I then drove the perimeter road around the prison to the spot where the handball court lined up with the cell phone tower. The handball court was on the north side of the facility. The cell phone tower was northeast of the handball court. Based on Crawford's description, the helicopter was traveling east-southeast at the time of the crash.

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