

Fox Todd

From: Trey Pool [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 3:15 PM
To: robert.thomason [REDACTED]; Fox Todd
Subject: Donald Pool Written Statement

Yesterday, I was driving north on highway 77. At around 10:30 I witnessed a crop plane flying very low. I had never seen a crop plane before so I watched what it was doing. The pilot in the yellow aircraft was headed east when he took a sharp right turn back to the field I believe he was watering. As he took the turn I noticed it was very sharp. Once he completed the turn he pointed his nose down headed west back over the highway. He crossed over the highway pretty low and I watched him hit the power line. I saw a huge spark on the power line. The next thing I saw was him hit the ground followed by a very large explosion. I immediately pulled my car over hopped the median wires and ran towards the scene. As I got closer to the aircraft I called 911. Unfortunately I had no idea where I was. At the scene I noticed there were power lines down near the aircraft. I did not go closer to the aircraft. I was able to see that the man flying the plane was still in the plane and on fire. I spoke to police and state troopers. (My directions might be off, but I'm pretty sure that was the directions he was flying.

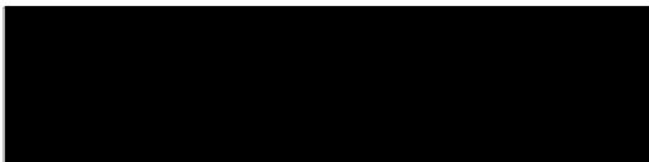
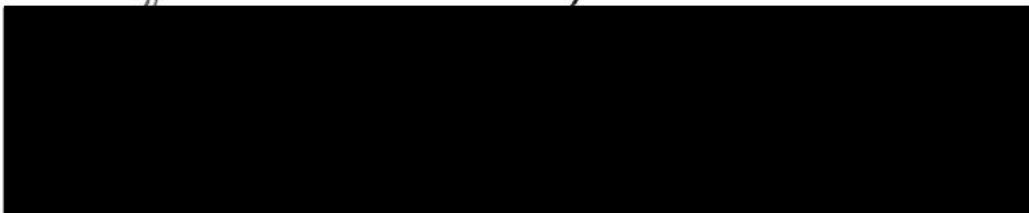
Please let me know if there is any more questions you may have.

Thanks,

Trey Pool
Midwest Territory Manager
[REDACTED]

Ashley Marie Tamez

On Tuesday, April 9, 2019 I was driving on Highway 77 going North when I witnessed a Cropduster hit the power lines and go down. As the pilot was making his drop to pass and spray he got snagged on a power line and sparks started flying as if someone was popping fireworks. I saw the plane spiral ~~to~~ from facing west to North and the plane fell below the brushline. I immediately saw smoke and then a ball of fire rose from the other side of the brush and even more black clouds came with it. When we got to the field Jose told me to call 9-1-1 and my phone sent them our location. 9-1-1 dispatcher could not hear me, so I called multiple times and let them know the cropduster had gone down and he let me know they were already on the way. Then I spoke with Jose and Sal about what I saw and First responders got there and I left.



Date: 4/9/19

Time: 10:33 AM

I Jose Saldierna was driving followed by Ashley Tamez North on expressway 77 heading towards field #25973-2 at 10:33 AM. I heard the radio Bennard asking Rene Lopez if he was on location, then I heard the radio stay on with no communication. While traveling North I was able to see the plane doing a fly over on the East side getting ready to do the first pass starting on the North East side of the field. I turned to look at the road to look for the exit, when I saw a cloud of smoke coming for the area in which Ben was flying. I received a call from Ashley letting me know that she saw the plane hit the power line. I arrived on location at 10:34 AM, I exited my truck and notified Ashley to call 911, while I was on the phone trying to reach Kenny. I stayed away at a safe distance trying to see if I could see Ben. JoAnn called me to get the MSDS sheets ready for DPS. DPS arrived at the scene at 10:40AM and advised us to get to a safe location. I cleared the location and met up with Edward and Kenny at 11:02 AM.



[Handwritten signature]



April 9, 2019 Tuesday Rene Lopez III

~~He~~ Mr. Ben and I were moving on to the next field and he asked me if I was there, I said yes but there was someone in the field. So I turned around to go let the ^{tractor} ~~person~~ know we were gonna be spraying by the time I turned around the plane was on fire so I went as fast as I could to try and help but there was no way.

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

On 4/9/19 at around 10:32am, I Salvador Mercado F.U.M. was on field 25971-5 driving off to field 25973-2. At the time Pilot Bennard Rowland had his radio on for about a minute not saying anything and then radio cleared. I continued driving on Orphanage Rd towards second field and Ben got on radio and asked ground observer if that was him on the field, ground observer Rene Lopez responded yes that it was him with static in the background. Seconds later Ben goes on radio again but not saying anything, I could hear the inside noise of the cockpit for about a minute or so than a static crack like noise that's when I saw the mushroom cloud ahead of me. When I got there the plane was completely in golfed in flames with powerlines cracking sparks on it with standing puddles of water around plane with powerlines. I could hear sirens in the background while I was trying to find a way to get close enough but flames and powerlines were dangerously not allowing anyone close enough. Made contact with Edward Herrera and Ben's daughter in-law made contact by with me by phone wanting to know if Ben was still in the plane, I told her at this point we couldn't tell and she stated that Ben's sons were on their way over and we hung up. After that I kept telling people to stay away due to powerlines until state troopers arrived on the scene, I provided them with pilots name and phone number of his family. Shortly after Edward Herrera made contact again and wanted to know if pilot had made it through I responded no. At this point first responders were at the scene telling everyone to clear out of the area. I left the scene with Kenny Fitzgerald and JoAnn Long.

[REDACTED]

4/9/19

[REDACTED]