



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Timothy N. Sorensen
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: August 13, 2019
Person Contacted: Kyle Rich
NTSB Accident Number: CEN19FA259 – Sumner, Iowa

Narrative:

Mr. Rich owns the ag operator based at Oelwein Airport. They are not affiliated with the accident operator.

The pilot was involved in a wire strike event about one week before the accident. He had flown to Oelwein and landed after the event. Mr. Rich noticed some damage to the propeller, windshield and the spray boom. Mr. Rich helped them contain the chemical leak due to the damaged spray boom. The pilot seemed shaken up and weak. The pilot commented that he had worked 21 days straight and was still many acres behind.

The airplane remained at Oelwein until the repairs were completed. The propeller and engine were removed. The airplane had been repaired and was returned to service on the Monday before the accident.

On the day of the accident, Mr. Rich came out of the office to see the accident airplane overflying the airport less than 300 ft above ground level. It appeared to be level and flying at a moderate speed. After the overflight, the pilot continued in a north-northwest direction. Mr. Rich heard about the accident later that morning.

----- End of entries -----

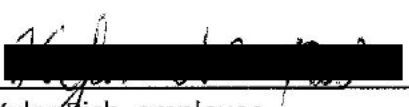
August 13, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

On August 8th, 2019, between approximately 7:15am and 7:25am, I observed an airplane flying unusually low to be ferrying to the northwest of the Oelwein, IA airport. On the left boom, there appeared to be liquid leaking out, so much so, that it appeared to be spraying.

The previous Sunday, I had heard someone coughing badly, and possibly heard someone vomiting. When I walked over, I saw that it was the pilot who later was identified as the pilot who died in the crash.

I observed that same pilot the previous week after he had hit a wire while spraying. He appeared weak and shaken.



Kyle Rich, employee
Crop Care By Air
Sumner, IA 50674

August 8, 2019

To Whom It May Concern,

This morning, at approximately 7:15, I observed an Air Tractor airplane flying lower than usual, heading northwest of the Oelwein, IA airport. His left boom was leaking a lot of fluid from the end nozzle.



Derrick L. Graves


August 13, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Around 7:15am to 7:20am on the morning of the airplane accident, I saw an airplane flying over unusually low. I noticed something was leaking out of the boom.



Kolby Rich, employee
Crop Care By Air
Sumner, IA 50674

8 August 2019

I observed An AN Tractor Ferrying
NW and went over the Glenview
Airport @ approximately 0715-0725.
It seemed unusually low to be
Ferrying. The ~~end~~ end nozzle on
the ~~left~~ left boom was leaking.
So much so that it appeared to be
spraying, but the only nozzle working.

On 2013 August, the ^v pilot was in the
mechanics hangar. I heard someone coughing
extremely bad and then vomiting. It
was Mr. Baker, because I walked over to
chat with him. ~~He~~ He was
talking & seemed to be ok, but didn't
look well at all.

David McCulloch



Tripoli Police Dept

Voluntary Statement

Statement of, Last, First:

Graves Leonard

Address

[REDACTED]

City:

Oak Grove

State:

La

DOB:

[REDACTED]

SSN#

[REDACTED]

Phone:

[REDACTED]

Statement taken by Officer:

Case:

Standing outside Olvera Airport observed
a Air tractor Fly over Reg/haw with what
looked like a leading Boom between 7:00 AM
7:30 AM

I certify under the penalty of perjury and pursuant to the laws of the State of Iowa that the preceding is true and correct.

Signature of person giving voluntary statement:

[REDACTED]

Date:

Witness:

[REDACTED]

Witness:



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: August 12, 2019
Person Contacted: Leonard Graves
NTSB Accident Number: CEN19FA259 – Sumner, Iowa

Narrative:

Mr. Graves reported that he was at the Oelwein Airport when the airplane flew over on the morning of the accident. He noted that the pilot overflowed the runway toward the north about 150 ft to 200 ft above ground level. He was unsure of the exact time but was certain that it was between 0700 and 0730. It appeared that the spray boom was leaking which left a trail behind the airplane. The airplane itself appeared to be intact and the engine appeared to be running normally.

Mr. Graves added that after the overflight the pilot just continued flying northbound which seemed a bit strange to him. He heard about the accident shortly afterward.

Mr. Graves noted that the pilot had been involved in a wire strike about one week before the accident. He recalled talking to him and that he was visibly shaken. The pilot told Mr. Graves that he was just upset.

----- End of entries -----



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Timothy N. Sorensen
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: August 20, 2019
Person Contacted: David Blume
NTSB Accident Number: CEN19FA259 – Sumner, Iowa

Narrative:

Mr. Blume reported that an airplane made a low pass over his home between 0710 and 0715 on the morning of the accident. His home was located about 2-1/2 miles northwest from the accident site. The engine sounded “healthy” and it seemed to be a normal approach to a field for a spray pass. Based on the sound, he thought that the pilot was going to spray the field next to his house; although, he wasn’t expecting of his fields to be sprayed that day. He thought that the airplane was southwest bound when it passed over.

Mr. Blume noted that within 3 minutes of hearing the airplane, he observed smoke southeast of his home. He did not hear any other airplanes at that time and thought that it was most likely the accident airplane.

----- End of entries -----



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: August 9, 2019
Person Contacted: Gene Craun
NTSB Accident Number: CEN19FA259 – Sumner, Iowa

Narrative:

Mr. Craun reported that the airplane flew directly over his house between 0715 and 0720. He was located about one mile west-northwest from the accident site. The airplane was southbound and very low; he was “amazed it cleared the trees.” The airplane appeared to be in level flight and the engine seemed to be operating normally. He observed a steady gray plume on the left side of the airplane; however, it did not appear to be coming from the spray boom.

----- End of entries -----



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Timothy N. Sorensen
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: August 20, 2019
Person Contacted: Leroy Brocka
NTSB Accident Number: CEN19FA259 – Sumner, Iowa

Narrative:

Mr. Brocka was at AgVantage FS on Whitetail Avenue in Sumner about 0715 on the morning of the accident. Shortly before he pulled out of the parking lot, a cement truck had passed by which had created a dust cloud about 75 feet high. The wind was light, and the dust hung over the road. He waited several seconds for the cloud to dissipate somewhat before pulling out of the parking lot.

Mr. Brocka reported that shortly after pulling out onto the road, he observed the accident airplane approaching directly from the west over a corn field. As the airplane approached the power lines paralleling the road, the pilot did not pull up. The airplane went under them and the tail caught the lines. The airplane continued out of sight over the corn field east of the road. The power lines “flickered” in the sun which is how he knew the airplane had struck them. Shortly afterward, he heard the explosion and saw smoke. He returned to AgVantage to notify the authorities.

Mr. Brocka recalled that the flight path never varied during the time he saw it. The airplane appeared to be straight and level, about 15 to 20 feet above the corn. Everything appeared normal if it had been an application pass. He thought it possible that the dust cloud with the sun behind it might have obscured the pilot’s view of the power lines.

----- End of entries -----



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Timothy N. Sorensen
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: September 4, 2019
Person Contacted: Justin Trainor
NTSB Accident Number: CEN19FA259 – Sumner, Iowa

Narrative:

Mr. Trainor reported that he observed the accident sequence as he was pulling out onto Route 93 eastbound. The airplane approached from the west-northwest in an approximate 20° left turn the entire time. He lost sight of it briefly as it crossed over the corn field west of Whitetail Avenue due to the low altitude. Shortly after he regained sight of it, the left wing struck the power lines running along Whitetail Avenue. The airplane's flight path did not seem to be affected by this initial wire strike and nothing appeared to separate from the airframe at that time. The airplane appeared to just barely clear the Croell Redi-Mix building before striking the power lines running along Route 93. This impact caused the airplane to veer to the left and the nose to drop, contacting the road. It skidded across the road and impacted the ground near a large tree on the north side of the road. The airplane was instantly engulfed in flames. He called 911 but was not able to get to the accident site due to the downed powerlines.

Mr. Trainor noted that nothing seemed unusual about the airplane before the initial wire strike except that it was at a "very low altitude." The airplane seemed to be intact and the engine sounded normal. He did not see any smoke coming from the airplane. It remained in the shallow left turn as it struck the power lines; it did not appear to be climbing or descending.

----- End of entries -----

STATEMENT/INTERVIEW

CASE _____

STATEMENT OF—Last Name

First Name

Address

Phone

Wurster

Gary

ACCIDENT

Time/Date

TAKEN AT (Place)

Time

Date

GIVEN TO

Badge

Dept.

WITNESS TO STATEMENT

MIRANDA GIVEN

No Yes Time

Age Birthdate

Direction headed: How fast:

Coming from where: Time left:

Going to: Route taken:

Passenger names and positions in vehicle:

Seat belts on:

Known mechanical defects:

When did you first perceive any danger (location):

Evasive action taken:

Headlights on:

Familiar with vehicle:

Roadway conditions:

Roadway defects:

Any medication or alcohol taken in past 8 hours:

Drinking: Time Started/Stopped: Amount/Type:

DATA

DATA

TELL ME WHAT YOU SAW HAPPEN:

1. Plane hit power lines as it crossed in front of me on Hwy 93 approximately 7:25 AM
2. Left wing of the plane hit ground first as it crossed road and
3. Traveled northeast. As left wing showed back a line of fire started on the ground following plane. The nose of the plane touched the ground swing the tail to the east. Plane came to a stop against a tree and immediately was engulfed in flames.

ANYTHING ELSE YOU RECALL THAT IS NOT MENTIONED?

SIGNATURE OF PERSON BEING INTERVIEWED

8-8-19 11:45 AM

DATE/TIME

IOWA
STATE
PATROLACCIDENT
INVESTIGATION

ON AUG. 9TH-19 I WAS AT THE CROELL REDMID
PLANT IN SUMNER, IA. I WAS IN THE
END LOADER FILLING BINS FACING WEST
AT APPROXIMATELY 7:30 AM I NOTICED
A YELLOW CROP DUSTER PLANE COMING
FROM THE WEST VERY LOW TO THE
GROUND IT APPEARED HE BANKED TO
THE LEFT TO AVOID HITTING THE
SILO AT THE PLANT VEERING NORTH
IN FRONT OF DOLLAR GENERAL STORE
CROSSING HIGHWAY AND CRASHED. AT
TIME OF IMPACT AND ENGULFED IN
FLAMES. SHORTLY AFTER THERE WAS
AN EXPLOSION. NO ONE COULD REACH THE
PLANE BECAUSE OF THE FLAMES UNTILL
FIRE AND RESCUE ARRIVED.

TOM FÖBER

CELL. [REDACTED]



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Timothy N. Sorensen
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: August 20, 2019
Person Contacted: Tony Rochford
NTSB Accident Number: CEN19FA259 – Sumner, Iowa

Narrative:

Mr. Rochford was at the Croell Redi-Mix plant at the time of the accident. He was inside with a view from windows facing toward the north and east. The airplane flew over the building at 0720; he called 911 at 0721. The airplane impacted a power line support pole and crossed the road before coming to rest in the yard on the opposite side of the street. The engine didn't seem as loud as he would have expected, and he thought that it wasn't at full power.

Mr. Rochford recalled that the sun was just coming up over the trees to the east at the time.

----- End of entries -----



IOWA STATE PATROL
Vehicle Theft Unit
STATEMENT / INTERVIEW

CASE #: VT08-032 24811isp

STATEMENT OF - Name, Last, First, Middle		AGE:	DATE OF BIRTH:	SSN/OLN:
Demuth Molly Barbara				
STREET ADDRESS:	CITY & STATE:	HOME TELEPHONE:	WORK TELEPHONE:	
	Milford Ia			
INCIDENT LOCATION:		TIME/DATE		
Samner plane crash		hrs. 0800 8-8-19		
STATEMENT TAKEN AT: (location)		TIME/DATE		
Beckwith scene		hrs. 0800 8-8-19		
STATEMENT GIVEN TO:		BADGE:	DISTRICT:	
Ken Hunt		393	District # 15	
WITNESS TO STATEMENT:				
EXPLAIN THIS PERSON'S RELATIONSHIP TO THIS INVESTIGATION:				
Witness to incident				

Provide Statement Below:

I was driving into town (East). I didn't hear any noises from the plane or from the outside because my radio was loud inside my car. I saw the plane coming down from the passenger side of my windshield and go over the highway (South → North). The plane was tilted with the left wing down, towards the ground. The plane travelled North across the highway, taking out power lines, until it collided with some trees on the North side in front of a residence. I stopped my car, got out, and the plane burst into flames. There was one loud explosion with more flames. After that, there were 2-3 smaller explosions ("popping noises")



IOWA STATE PATROL

CASE 2019021297

Mehman Jeff Duane 64 [REDACTED]

STATEMENT OF (Name Last First Middle) [REDACTED] AGE [REDACTED] DATE OF BIRTH [REDACTED] SSN/OLN [REDACTED]

STREET ADDRESS CITY & STATE HOME PHONE WORK PHONE

13 E Life Line Drive Sumner, IA

INCIDENT LOCATION

13 E St & Life Line Dr.

TIME/DATE

8/8/19 @ 07:15

STATEMENT TAKEN AT (Location)

13 E St & Life Line Dr.

TIME/DATE

8/8/19 @ 08:13

STATEMENT GIVEN TO

Trapper Jared Rude

BADGE

369

DISTRICT #

10

WITNESS TO STATEMENT

13 E St & Life Line Drive

EXPLAIN THIS PERSON'S RELATIONSHIP TO THIS INVESTIGATION

MIRANDA GIVEN

TIME/DATE

NARRATIVE

Coming to work around 7:15 am and saw a plane southwest of 93 flying very low. Pulled into work parking lot and heard a large explosion, someone ran looked across the street and saw a fireball explosion. Had Sam call 911 and then ran across the street to see if anyone on the ground were around. Wires were down west of 93 and the plane was on fire. Two guys from Life Line took a garden hose and tried to put the fire out. Emergency staff arrived on scene and took control of the scene.

[REDACTED]
05-08-19

We have video of the accident

Jeff Manman [REDACTED]



IOWA STATE PATROL

CASE 2019021297

Carla Schwerin, Carla Rae 62 [REDACTED]
STATEMENT OF (Name Last, First, Middle) AGE DATE OF BIRTH SSN/OLN
[REDACTED] Summer IA [REDACTED]
STREET ADDRESS CITY & STATE HOME PHONE WORK PHONE

INCIDENT LOCATION

1st St & Lfeline Dr

TIME/DATE

8/8/19 @ 0715

STATEMENT TAKEN AT (Location)

Dollar General

TIME/DATE

8/8/19 @ 0817

STATEMENT GIVEN TO

Trooper Jared Rude

BADGE

569

DISTRICT

10

WITNESS TO STATEMENT

EXPLAIN THIS PERSON'S RELATIONSHIP TO THIS INVESTIGATION

MIRANDA GIVEN

TIME/DATE

NARRATIVE

I was in Dollar General purchasing a few things prior to work. I work across the street in the building next to the accident (to the west). As I was checking out, the lights went out, heard one or two big booms, went outside, saw & heard another bomb, realized it was a plane in the air.

[REDACTED]
8-8-2019



IOWA STATE PATROL

CASE 2019021297

Lahr, Joe Charles 40 [REDACTED]
STATEMENT OF (Name Last, First, Middle) AGE DATE OF BIRTH SSN/OLN
[REDACTED] Greene IA [REDACTED]
STREET ADDRESS CITY & STATE HOME PHONE WORK PHONE
Dollar General 8-8-19
INCIDENT LOCATION TIME/DATE
1st St & Lifeline Dr 8/8/19 @ 07:15
STATEMENT TAKEN AT (Location) TIME/DATE
Dollar General 8/8/19 @ 09:19
STATEMENT GIVEN TO BADGE DISTRICT #
Trooper Jared Rude 569 10
WITNESS TO STATEMENT

EXPLAIN THIS PERSON'S RELATIONSHIP TO THIS INVESTIGATION

MIRANDA GIVEN

TIME/DATE

NARRATIVE

lights went out, then heard a loud crash, ran outside
and saw the plane in flames, then another loud boom
from the plane while in flames.

8-8-19

Store manager for Dollar General, we will have
video of the start of the crash.

8-8-19

Karla Michel Norby's Manager
[REDACTED]

7:30 AM

Thursday

We were in the store heard a loud noise went out
side - heard another loud sound. Then a blast of
fire. A fire hit the middle of the parking lot -
hit the bank next door.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

may have video



P.O. Box 206
Sumner, Iowa 50674

P.O. Box 40
Fayette, Iowa 52142

Sumner Ph 563-578-3312 / Fayette Ph 563-425-3395

August 8, 2019
Approximately 7:20 AM

I was sitting in my office preparing for the day when I heard a loud explosion behind me. I turned to see a large ball of fire to the west of the bank and witnessed a tire bouncing across the parking lot of Norby's Farm Store just missing a car and heading towards the bank. I thought it was going to miss the bank, but as it kept coming towards the bank, it bounced more to the north and hit the front entrance to the bank shattering the front door and window.

A short time later the Sumner Fire Department, EMS and police were on the scene to assure there would be no further danger to the surrounding area.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Keith Niemann', written over a blacked-out redacted area.

Keith Niemann
Vice President
First State Bank, Sumner, IA