



The National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety
Central Region
Memorandum for the Record
Passenger C Skerlock
Statement Summary
CEN19FA271
Hopedale, Louisiana
August 18, 2019

Passenger Clinton Skerlock Statement Summary

All events leading up to the accident are the same as Ted Skerlock Statement.

After waiting out storms under the aircraft at the island Mr. Clinton Skerlock said the pilots were looking at a weather radar on an iPad and determined there was a window between the storms and they could make it back. They loaded up the aircraft and took off. After about 10 minutes they could see they were approaching a storm the pilots talking between the 2 aircraft thought they could make it through. He heard the pilot from the other plane say let me know when you get through. At that time they entered the storm and lost visibility. He felt like the aircraft was leaning slightly to the right, he looked out the side window and could see the water and thought they were coming down to it. When he realized they were going to hit it he tried to alert the pilot but it was too late. They hit the water right side first and the aircraft broke up. When they came to a stop the plane was filling with water fast and it was over his head very quickly. He managed to get his seat belt off but was disoriented and didn't know how to get out. He finally found an opening and got out then he and the pilot tried to get his father (Ted Skerlock) out. He could see him through a window and finally found an opening and pulled him out by his pant leg.

After they got orientated they found a pontoon to float on but it sank, he found an ice chest and gave it to his father to float on. He saw they were drifting away so he let his father go and tried to swim back to the aircraft and the pilot but the current was too strong so he just floated on his back. After a while he looked back and could see the pilot was trying to get to him so he tried swimming again to meet him. When he got to him the pilot had an extra life vest for him and put it on. By this time they had lost sight of his father so he and the pilot just drifted. After some time they spotted land and tried to get to it by swimming during this time he and the pilot became separated. He made it to a buoy and grabbed on to that. He looked around and could see the pilot floating and he drifted away. He stayed there until he was rescued by the Coast Guard.

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