

From: [Bradley Painter](#)
To: [Liedler Courtney](#)
Cc: [REDACTED] [Cory Merryman](#)
Subject: Witness statement Conroe Bradley Painter
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I was in the Line Service Office, which is located in the FBO near the main lobby when. From the office I saw the single engine aircraft with floats taking-off Runway 14 heading straight ahead what looked to be a normal climb, with no flaps down. The aircraft had a backfire sound, similar to a loud "pop! pop!". Following the sound of the engine powering down, and after a few seconds, I heard the sound of the engine powering back up what sounded like power was being put in to help the aircraft try to climb. That is about the time I heard the pilot on the radio say to tower "we have a fuel problem, were going to return to the airport". I ran outside took a golf cart down to the edge of our arrival canopy. Looking down the end of 32 toward the grass area, I saw a glimpse of the tail straight up disappear behind the trees then a light layer of smoke followed.

I have been working at this airport for the past three years full-time. This aircraft didn't appear to be one that I see often. However, I have seen the aircraft parked on the south side of the airfield, on what appears to be a public GA ramp.

Bradley Painter
Galaxy FBO
Line Service Technician