

Witness Statement of Brett Patterson
August 14, 2020 crash of N467SC

After taking off the morning of August 14th, we made a left hand turn out of the Addison airport and proceeded to fly to a practice area to work on the flight maneuvers discussed the day before.

As requested by the flight instructor, I had read through the assigned chapters in my Jeppesen Private Pilot Maneuvers workbook and completed the assigned homework the night prior. The plan for the flight that morning was to demonstrate and practice slow flight, stalls, and stall recovery.

The instructor first demonstrated slow flight, and reduced the planes power and airspeed and lowered the flaps to 30° to demonstrate the planes altered handling capabilities in that configuration. While still in this configuration, the instructor then demonstrated a stall and recovered.

I was then instructed to perform the same maneuver. The instructor had me increase the altitude and reduce the power and airspeed with the flaps still down until the aircraft stalled, and then recover from the stall.

Prior to the aircraft stalling, the instructor then instructed me to raise the flaps, changing the configuration of the aircraft. I was then instructed to perform the stall in this configuration. I repeated the instructions back for confirmation, and proceeded to do as instructed.

Once I felt the nose beginning to drop, I released the back pressure and pitched the nose down, as instructed, and applied full power. As the airspeed increased I started to ease back on the controls however, I was unable to pitch the nose up or arrest the descent. The instructor quickly took over the controls in an attempt to recover, but was unsuccessful. Unable to stop the descent, we crashed in a field.

After the plane stopped moving I felt a horrible pain in my neck. The owners of the property where we crashed came to help us and said they were both certified paramedics. I told them my neck was killing me, and I that had tingling and numbness in my right arm. The father and son proceeded to pull us out of the plane, while keeping my neck stabilized, and waited with us both until the ambulance arrived. As I laid on the ground, I was able to unlock my cell phone and reach out to my girlfriend, my father, and my mother to let them know I was just involved in a plane crash. I was transported to the Greenville, TX hospital where I was diagnosed with a broken neck and other injuries. I was then medivacked to the Medical City Plano hospital for emergency spinal surgery due to the unstable nature of my injury.

Brett Patterson
August 28, 2020