



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Mitchell Gallo
Aviation Accident Investigator, NTSB IIC
Central Region

Person Contacted: James Preblich, Airport Manager, Ely Municipal Airport (ELO)
NTSB Accident Number: CEN20LA354
Date: August 21, 2020

Narrative:

James Preblich stated there was no surveillance video at ELO of N997S. The airplane, N997S, arrived about 1200, and the pilot was given a minivan to use. The fixed base operator at the ELO closed at 1700. The pilot returned to the airport 1600-1700 and asked Mr. Preblich if he could continue to use the minivan. The pilot was waiting for the destination weather at Grand Marais, Minnesota, which was fogged in, to clear. Mr. Preblich said he left about 1700 and returned to the airport at 1105 and saw N997S there along with another airplane that was also waiting for the weather to clear. Mr. Preblich said the pilot of N997S sumped the airplane fuel because there were stains on the ramp indicative of fuel samples being dumped on the ground relative to where N997S was parked. Mr. Preblich was asked by the NTSB IIC to email photos of the fuel sample ground stains.

Taken by:

Mitchell Gallo