

Statement of events regarding Gyrocopter crash at Millard Airport (KMLE) 7 December 2019

In accordance to my observation of the Gyrocopter Crash. I was returning from a flight lesson at approximately 1335/1340. I saw the Gyrocopter in the pattern. He was clearly struggling to maintain control. I actually thought he was intentionally practicing autorotations. The winds were reporting 180 @ 12-16. I also experienced Wind Shear on final coming over the short final at 200 feet AGL. I made a comment to my colleague CFI Eric Taylor that the pilot appeared to be struggling in the pattern. Eric and I went inside the FBO to discuss last minute flight ops for our scheduled lesson and that's when we heard the loud crash.

We ran outside and I was the one that approached the pilot. He was outside the aircraft and tried to get up and then collapsed. We told him to not move. When I observed the wreckage, it was smoking and I tried to move him. But my colleagues warned me not to move him. He did express to me his remorse of him being rusty. He also expressed to me that he hadn't flown in a while. So that was his reason to fly today.

If you have any questions, please feel free to give me a call.

Kind regards,

Benji Cunningham, Chief Flight Instructor, Oracle Flight Training Center.

[Redacted Signature]
[Redacted]
(Cell)
[Redacted]

I was inbound to KMLE in N6274D.

I was crossing midfield and saw ~~the~~
the gyrocopter above the numbers on Runy 12.

I saw him above the grass between the runway
& taxi-way as I crossed mid-field. - Figured he
was heading to park. As I was above
the numbers on down-wind I heard someone
on CTAF say the helicopter had crashed.

I orbited the runway for 2 circles, then
diverted to KOMA.

- Mark Sprague

A black rectangular redaction box covers the signature of Mark Sprague. The box is positioned below the name and above the final flourish of the signature.

MILWAUKEE DAY

BOP 22
05 BB ON TAXI

READY TO TAKE OFF

GYRO CRASHED ~~TO~~

SAW WHERE THING

AS HE TRIED TO

LAND. SAW THE CRASH.

100
[REDACTED]

Statement regarding gyrocopter crash at Millard Airport on 12/7/19

Justin Bowers

I, Justin Bowers, eye-witnessed the gyrocopter crashing off of runway 12 at the Millard Airport. I flew into Millard at the same time the gyrocopter was also in the pattern doing landings. Me and my student just landed with some hefty crosswind (13 knots) and taxied off of runway 12 and were taxiing back to the ramp. I noticed the gyrocopter approaching to land and watched his first landing. It looked fairly unstable. He came into land and touched one main tire down and ballooned back up into the air and attempted to make another landing after ballooning. The gyrocopter looked like it was going to attempt to land again in an unsafe attitude and before it hit the ground again it performed a go-around. After seeing the go-around we continued to taxi back to the ramp.

After parking at the ramp, I got out of the plane and witnessed the second attempt at landing of the gyrocopter. The approach was the same. It looked a bit unstable and ballooned back up off the runway after the first contact with the ground. From this position, the gyrocopter appeared to lose control from the crosswind and veered to the right towards taxiway Zulu. I believe from this point, I couldn't see because of a plane blocking my view, it might have hit the taxiway and came-up off the ground again. After coming off the ground near the taxiway it came back down one final time with the rotor contacting the ground this time. Debris blew everywhere and then I heard a loud boom. I ran across the ramp immediately and met with other witnesses/bystanders near the gyrocopter to assist.

Justin Bowers, CFI [REDACTED] Exp: 8/21 (Oracle Employee)

Address: [REDACTED] NE 68779

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Statement of events regarding Gyorcopter crash at Millard Airport (KMLE) 7 December 2019

At approximately 1345L I was debriefing a flight that I had earlier in the day with my flight Instructor Benji Cunningham and another Flight instructor, Eric Taylor when I heard a "Thud" which led me to believe that something large had "crashed". Benji and I looked up and Eric had stated that the sound resembled that of a plane or helicopter crash. The 3 of us raced out of the conference room at Oracle Aviation toward the flight line to find the mishap Aircraft in pieces on the ground approximately 30 yards to the northwest west of the building's east entrance. I approached the aircraft with caution not knowing if the engine was still running or the mishap aircraft was leaking fuel. Looking for the pilot found him to the west of the mishap aircraft conscience and alert, but bleeding from the face and right hand. He was sitting up and communicating with us. I along with others help to secure the scene and we assured that 911 had been called. Shortly afterwards the Omaha Police arrived and took control of the scene.

Patrick S. Ryan [REDACTED] exp. 11/21 (Employed by Oracle Aviation)

Address: [REDACTED] NE 68164

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Statement of events regarding Gyrocopter crash at Millard Airport (KMLE) 7 December 2019

At approximately 1340L I saw the gyrocopter attempting to land several times the aircraft dropped 20 to 30 feet. As the gyrocopter approached the end of the runway the pilot went around and entered the traffic pattern. Approximately 5 min later I was in the FBO talking at the front desk and heard a loud bang when I looked out the window I saw the gyrocopter on the ground and the blades flying to the air. At that point I followed around 8 other people to the scene of the crash where we found the pilot ejected from his aircraft.

Nothing follows for any further questions feel free to contact me.

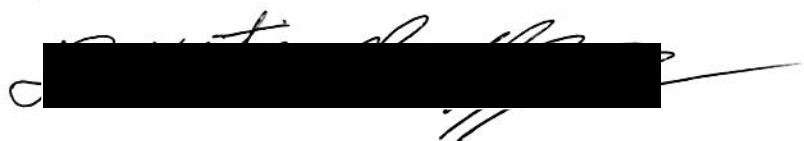
Dustin Rodriguez CFI -CFII

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Apt. 4

Omaha, NE 68136

[REDACTED]

 [REDACTED]

Statement of Eric Daniel Taylor on 7 December 2019

At approximately 1345 local time I was inside the Oracle Aviation lobby preparing for a flight when I heard the gyrocopter impact the ground. I ran outside along with several others to render assistance to the pilot, who was sitting on the ground next to the gyrocopter. I inspected the aircraft engine for leaking fuel or other signs of potential fire, and then I turned the ignition key off and removed the key as to prevent the magnetos from firing inadvertently. I placed the key on the top of the fuselage and did not touch the aircraft any further.

Prior to the crash I witnessed the gyrocopter flying somewhat erratically and at one point it looked like he unintentionally impacted the ground and bounced during a botched approach to landing.

[REDACTED]
Omaha, NE 68124

[REDACTED]
SCFI
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Jesus (Jesse) Gabriel Basco

12/7/2019

Statement

Roughly at 13:50 local time, my instructor Justin Bowers and I witnessed a crashed at Millard Airport. The aircraft that crashed was a gyrocopter. Me and my instructor were securing the aircraft that we were flying (N737SJ) when we notice the gyrocopter crashed at the taxiway close to the FBO.

Prior to that, when my instructor and I were flying in the pattern, we noticed the gyrocopter was having difficulties in landing the aircraft. We also had to go around the first time since the crosswind made our approach unstable. On our second try we were able to land our aircraft safely, after taxing off the runway we noticed the gyrocopter going around.

After securing our aircraft at the ramp, on our way to the FBO my instructor and I heard a loud noise, I turned around since I was grabbing some stuff from the aircraft. I saw how the gyrocopter stopped moving at the grass on the side of taxiway Zulu.

My instructor and I dropped everything on the ground and started running to the gyrocopter trying to help. When we got there the pilot of the gyrocopter was being assisted by Mr. Cunningham. The pilot was conscious and talking with what it seemed small injuries and some blood around his nose.

Jesse Basco , Student Pilot at Oracle

Address :

, NE