

Alex Lemishko
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Date: August 10, 2021

Subject: CEN21FA364, Melbourne, Arkansas Cessna 210H, N5940F Accident on August 9, 2021. Memorandum of Record

Contact: John Chmura, Aircraft Maintenance Coordinator, Ozarka College Aviation Program. Witness to the Accident.

Mr. Chmura had watched the airplane taxi in earlier that morning. About 10:45 am, Mr. Chmura was in front of the building talking to students when he saw the pilot return. He observed the pilot preflight the airplane and taxi to runway 21 for takeoff. He also observed the airplane on its takeoff roll until it went out of sight behind a hangar after lifting off near the departure end of the runway. He mentioned that he recalled thinking the airplane seemed to have an extended takeoff roll. Curious, he said he ran inside the building to see if he could see the airplane. He saw nothing in the sky but something low in the tree line. Then he saw a black plume of smoke rise into the sky. He ran into the office and informed the Director and the Chief Flight Instructor, and then another instructor informed him by phone that it was the airplane that had just taken off. The caller was at the other end of the airport. They got into a truck and responded to the scene.

Mr. Chmura also provided a witness statement.