

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety
Central Region



CEN21LA067

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Denise Mongan, Witness

January 4, 2021

Interviewee: Denise Mongan (Witness)
Date/Time: January 4, 2021 / 1400 CST
Location: Telephone Call
Investigator: Andrew Todd Fox, NTSB Air Safety Investigator

Ms. Mongan was a witness to the November 26, 2020, airplane accident near the Telluride Regional Airport, Telluride, Colorado. Ms. Mongan wanted to speak with the NTSB Investigator to provide additional observations that she had on the day of the accident that were not included in her written statement she provided to the San Miguel County Sheriff's Office on the day of the accident.

Ms. Mongan stated that she was on an afternoon walk in the Last Dollar neighborhood when she saw a small airplane in a "vertical nose dive", "spinning to the right". The sound of the airplane's engine was "quite loud" as the airplane descended toward the ground. The airplane spun to the right "3 to 4 times" before it descended behind a snowbank that obstructed her view.

Ms. Mongan stated that she sent a text message to Emil Sante (San Miguel County Coroner) to report a possible airplane accident. Mr. Sante replied that airport personnel would respond to an airplane accident. Ms. Mongan stated that she decided to drive-up to the airport but did not see any activity at the airport. She also saw another airplane land at the airport. Ms. Mongan then received a phone call from San Miguel County Sheriff Bill Masters who asked her to drive back toward the accident site to guide his responding sheriff deputies toward the crash site. Ms. Mongan stated that she assisted the deputies by pointing in the general direction of where she saw the airplane descending toward the ground.

Ms. Mongan then contacted a couple of neighbors in the area who assisted the search for the crash site along a path through the neighborhood. After the accident site was located, she heard a constant beeping coming from the airplane. She noted that both individuals in the airplane had significant injuries from the crash.

Ms. Mongan then redirected the responding sheriff department deputies to the accident site and completed a written statement before going home.