

Charlotte Delatorre

Slaughter, LA 70777

April 28, 2021

This is my personal statement of the events I witnessed on April 26, 2021.

Shortly after 5:00 pm I was standing in my front yard with Mr. (Jeff) Caston. He was measuring my house across the front for gutters. My neighbor, Bridget Soileau was in her front yard watering her plants. Her address is [REDACTED] and it is behind her house that the crash took place. My house is on the north side of Bridget's.

We heard a plane coming from the south end of the air strip towards us, going north. I said to Mr. Caston that it sounds like a plane is coming. He said, "that's always exciting". I said, "yes". It was just about that time that we started to see the front of the plane coming from south to north. The plane was a small, golden-yellow, single engine plane. It appeared to be heading off course out over the yards of the houses and not over the runway. It did not appear to be very high off the ground and appeared to be having trouble, kind of like a car losing control. I said, "He doesn't look like he's doing too good". It appeared to me that the plane was about to crash into Bridget's RV park or at least clip it, so it was drifting towards the west. But then suddenly the plane tried to turn toward the east (toward the trees) and then went up sharply. It is at this point that I think they may have lost power or the engine sputtered and went out??? Then the plane quickly turned downward and fell straight into the ground, nose (propeller) first. I think I remember the propeller turning as it struck the ground, but I was too shocked to say for certain. As the plane hit the ground, it fell on its left side wing a little and then it turned back facing southeast as the back end came to rest on the ground. I just remember that the crash itself was very quiet and I think I heard the men in the plane yell... so that makes me think that the loud engine must have been out.

As Mr. Caston, my neighbor Bridget and I took off toward the plane, I dialed 911. I made my first call to 911 at 5:11 pm within seconds of the plane crash. Upon reaching the plane, I was able to see that there were two men in the plane and was able to tell the 911 operator that they appeared to have major head injuries and that they needed help fast. I was on the left side of the plane as people yelled to go get towels. I ran back to my house to get towels and hung up with 911. As I got back to the plane the second time with the towels, I came around the tail end to the right side and came up from behind the men. It is at that time that I recognized the man in the back as our friend Brian Capone. He was alert and talking, but the man in the front was slumped over on his head moaning and I do not think he was ever conscious. I told Brian who I was and then stepped away and call his wife. At this point several other people (neighbors and construction workers) arrived to assist to get the men out of the plane. This is when I noticed that fuel was pouring out of the front of the plane. We were all very concerned about the possibility of the plane erupting into flames.

I went out the road to help guide emergency vehicles to the location, as I'm not sure that I gave 911 the address. I then dialed 911 a second time at 5:18 pm to make sure that they knew the address was [REDACTED]

██████████. Shortly after that, Airmed came and landed on the air strip and then ambulance, police and others arrived.

By the time I arrived back to the plane for the 3rd time, Brian Capone was already pulled out and lying on the ground. He was alert and still talking but looked badly broken on his left side. The other man was still in the plane and people were attending to him.

On April 28, 2021 at 11:53 am, I was contacted by Mr. Michael Stanley from FAA and asked to provide a written statement. At 12:25 pm, I was contacted by Slaughter Police Chief Smith and was asked about the direction the plane was taking off from.

This statement is to the best of my memory, at this time. If I remember any other details, I will add to this report. If anyone needs to me to explain anything from this report, feel free to reach me at the above number.

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