



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Central Region

Date: 06/22/2021
Person Contacted: FAA Inspector Richard Stevens
RE: CEN21LA286

Narrative:

During a telephone conversation, Inspector Stevens reported that the operator told him the airplane's 510-gallon hopper was loaded with 10 ounces of a foam breakdown chemical, 62.5 gallons of herbicide, 300 gallons of fertilizer, and 87.5 gallons of water (450 gallons total mixture). While on the pilot's second spray pass, he noticed the chemical mixture was reacting and foaming over and through the hopper vent. He pulled the airplane out of his second pass and also noticed chemical foaming out of the overflow vent. He then looked forward and observed the chemical reacting violently, and it began to emit from the hopper lid. The windshield became fully obscured with foam, and the pilot was unable to see anything outside the airplane. The pilot opened the window in attempt to determine his altitude when the airplane impacted terrain in a wings-level attitude. The airplane skidded on the terrain and came to rest upright.

He stated that the pilot nor the ground loading personnel used a test jar for chemical mixture before the flight.

He stated the airplane sustained substantial damage to both wings and the fuselage. His postaccident examination of the airplane did not reveal any mechanical anomalies that would have precluded normal operation. The pilot reported to him that he had recently replaced the hopper lid seal but could not recall the date.