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Video of the airplane showed the airplane wing's rocking as it approached the intended drop location for the aerial firefighting of the Kruger Rock fire. Two witnesses stated that they saw the airplane roll inverted and did not see it descend into terrain. One of the witnesses, who was in radio communication with the pilot, stated that he did not hear the pilot transmit any problems with the airplane nor make any distress calls prior to the accident.

The airplane wreckage was upright and displayed features of a low-speed, nose-down impact with sloping and wooded terrain. There was no ground scarring that preceded the wreckage. The wreckage did not display asymmetric wing damage consistent with yaw/bank on impact, and there was no lateral displacement of the empennage consistent with yaw on impact. The airplane sustained substantial damage that included damage to the fuselage, wings, and empennage. The propeller exhibited torsional bending/twisting. Postaccident examination of the wreckage revealed no mechanical anomalies that would have precluded normal operation.