



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Carrol A. Smith
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: July 20, 2012

Person Contacted: Sharon Murphy, ERA12FA467, N25AU

Narrative:

Mrs. Murphy stated her husband is the registered owner of N25AU, a Van's RV-4 that was involved in an airplane accident in the vicinity of Cedartown, Georgia, on July 20, 2012. The airplane is based at Hilliard Airpark (01J) Hilliard, Florida. She stated her husband normally keeps the aircraft logbooks in his hangar at the airpark or in his truck. She further stated on the day of the accident that he was flying a flight with multiple legs from the airpark to Oshkosh, WI. A friend of his helped him with his flight planning for the trip and his first intended stop was at Mc Minnville, Tennessee. She stated her husband was going to call her at each stop. He planned on flying about 3 hours on each leg.

Mrs. Murphy stated her husband had filled the airplane up with fuel at the airport himself since there is no fuel available at the airport. He did not file a flight plan and he left the house at about 0530 to go preflight the airplane. The preflight would have been completed between 0645 to 0650 and would of left around 0700.



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Carrol A. Smith
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: July 20, 2012

Person Contacted: Joseph Benson, ERA12FA467, Hilliard, FL

Narrative:

Mr. Benson stated he is a commercial pilot and a friend of the deceased pilot. The planning was planning a flight from 01J to Oshkosh WI and planned on departing on July 20, 2012, in his Van's RV-4, N25AU. The first leg was from 01J to McMinnville, TN. He did not file a flight plan and he did not know if he checked weather for the flight. He stated the pilot was not instrument rated. The airplane had been topped off by the pilot from his own refueling source, and the airplane had a Garmin 396 GPS installed in the airplane. The airplane burned 9 gallons of fuel per hour. Mr. Benson stated he was not aware of the location of the pilot logbook or the airplane logbooks.



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Carrol A. Smith
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: July 20, 2012

Person Contacted: William Hughes, ERA12FA467, N25UA

Narrative:

Mr. Hughes stated he heard an airplane circling his home at about 0830 AM. The ceiling was low with light rain. The airplane circled overhead about two times and then he did not hear it any more.



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Carrol A. Smith
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: July 20, 2012

Person Contacted: Michael W. Owens, Tallaposa, GA, ERA12FA467, N25AU

Narrative:

Mr. Owens stated he left his home at 0800 on July 20, 2012 to go across the road to his hog pens. At about 0815 he heard an airplane circling overhead but he could not see the airplane due to the low clouds and fog. It sounded like the engine was cutting in and out like it was starving for fuel. He went back in his house and informed his wife that he thought the airplane was in trouble. He did not hear anything else and they left the house and went to town. A little while later he heard an airplane had crashed on Treat Mountain Road.



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Carrol A. Smith
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: July 20, 2012

Person Contacted: Ashley Thompson, ERA12FA467 Fruithurst, Alabama, N25UA

Narrative:

Mrs. Thompson stated she was with her husband in their private vehicle and they just turned off onto Treat Mountain Road on July 20, 2012 at about 08 46, when they observed black smoke. They continued up the road and observed an airplane on fire with a pilot sitting upright in his seat. She immediately called 911 and reported the accident and her husband ran to the airplane to assist. He was unable to help the pilot due to the intensity of the fire. Mrs. Thompson said it was very cloudy at the accident site.