



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

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Date: July 30, 2014 at 1039 EDT
Person(s) Interviewed: Tony Daddabbo
NTSB Case Number: ERA14CA366

Narrative:

- Mr. Daddabbo planned to fly with a group of other pilots to a small grass runway airport about 10 miles from his home airport. Prior to departing on the flight, he consulted the airport facility directory and NOTAMs, as he had previously never flown to this particular airport (D93). He noted that the airport facility directory described a displaced threshold for runway 28, but gave no reason why it was displaced. It also described that two green and one red lights were to have marked the displaced threshold. He later found that the lights were difficult to see at the airport and were partially obscured, and that generally, the actual runway threshold was not well marked.
- Upon arriving at the airport, he entered a normal traffic pattern to land on the 2,100-foot long runway. As he was used to operating from a 3,000-foot runway, he wanted to use “as much of the runway as possible”, and decided that he would touchdown inside the displaced threshold, which he had since forgotten about. While at 75 to 80 knots, and with 20-degrees of flaps, he had increased the airplane’s descent rate for the approach.
- On short final approach to the runway, he was surprised when he suddenly saw utility lines ahead of the airplane. The airplane’s left main landing gear “grazed” one of the utility wires, and the airplane then yawed to the left and pitched nose down. The pilot responded by applying full right aileron to level the airplane, however it continued in the steep descent and impacted the runway. The nose of the airplane was substantially damaged including damage to the engine mounts and nose landing gear, as well as both wing tips.
- The pilot stated that while the power lines crossing the runway threshold were marked with “orange balls”, their color was faded, and they did not stand out. He also remarked that during the flight he was wearing amber tinted sun glasses, which also further obscured them from view.
- When asked, the pilot stated that the performance and handling of the airplane prior to the accident was, “beautiful.”