



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Heidi Moats
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

December 26, 2013

Subject: ERA14FA077

On the day of the accident, several first responders reported smelling an odor similar to 100LL aviation fuel at the site of the main wreckage.



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December 30, 2013

Subject: ERA14FA077
Name: Mr. John Downley - Witness

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Downley stated the following:

- On the morning of the accident I was in bed sleeping and I usually listen to the engines of airplanes as they pass by.
- On the morning of the accident, this engine was running nice and smooth.
- It was traveling from the southwest to the northeast.
- I heard a high whine, and then it sounded like it went into a dive. Then, I heard a boom, no more than two seconds later.
- I couldn't see more than 100 yards in any direction due to the hills around my house so I didn't go outside to look around.
- The engine was running nice and smooth.
- It sounded like a single engine plane.
- It sounded like it was just going along and then like it nosed over and just went straight down for a second and then I heard the bang.



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Subject: ERA14FA077
Name: Mr. James Shaffer - Witness

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Shaffer stated the following:

- I was walking out to feed the dogs and I heard a plane flying extremely low.
- I couldn't see his lights because it was cloudy.
- It sounded like it was off to the side, behind the house.
- I heard it sputter, then it revved up, and I heard a bam.
- It was about 5:15 when I began hearing all this.
- The airplane sounded like a dirt bike.
- Being really low to the ground, it was running fine and then I heard it miss. I only heard it miss once, then after that it revved up real fast, and two seconds after that I heard the explosion
- When it was running, I could tell it was really close to the ground because it was so loud.
- I didn't hear anything else besides the engine.
- The weather was cloudy, but it didn't start snowing until right after he wrecked, and then the flakes started coming down.
- That was the loudest explosion I've ever heard.
- It was almost like I could feel the impact in the air when he hit.
- I was looking around the fields and I didn't see any fire, it was hard to find it since it was so dark out.
- I couldn't see his lights anywhere.



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December 30, 2013

Subject: ERA14FA077
Name: Mr. Mark Woolson - Witness

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Woolson stated the following:

- On the morning of the accident I came out of the house and got into the truck.
- I went to move the truck to go get the trashcan.
- I was out of house for 5 minutes before I heard the airplane.
- And I didn't hear a thing until I stepped out of the truck.
- I heard the plane come up over neighbor's house, looked up, and saw a silhouette of the wing with a red marker light on it.
- At that point the engine sounded very strong, like it was "floored" giving it all she got.
- Then, at the last second before I heard nothing, I heard the engine spike, like it revved up real high, like it was running out of fuel. It got louder and then it was all of a sudden dead.
- Then, a couple seconds later I heard trees snapping and falling, and then it was dead silence after that.
- The weather was chilly, but I didn't have my wipers on like there was snow or something. The weather was nothing out of the ordinary. It was a little overcast, I don't remember seeing stars. It wasn't really foggy since I could see the top of the trees.
- I didn't see any headlights or anything when the airplane came over the house, just the red light.
- Once that happened I got back in the truck, I wasn't sure what happened and I went to the end of the driveway.
- I could see but not clearly because it was dark out.
- I called 911 at that point and I didn't see any reason that it would be in that field or in the trees. From the farm drive looking up at the field, I could not see the wreckage. There were no lights or fire that I saw.
- I know the field well so the wreckage would have stuck out to me if it was burning or there was a light flashing.

- Where they found one piece of airplane near my house, where they found that was where I was parked. The airplane went straight over my head at that time.
- When looking up from the bottom, the red light seemed to be on the left side of the airplane.
- I only saw a silhouette of the wing, not of the cockpit.
- My first thought of when I heard the engine spike was that a pilot was pulling back on the airplane to pull up.