



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Heidi Moats
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

August 29, 2015

Subject: ERA15FA330 – Background Witnesses
Who: Pilot's Brother and Cousin

In a conversation with the pilot's brother and cousin, they stated:

- The pilot recently started flying again 3-4 weeks ago.
- The pilot has flown with them in a Cirrus aircraft several times in the past.
- He was an "excellent" pilot who handled everything from weather and tough situations with ease.
- The pilot called his wife to tell her he was going flying at 5:00 pm on August 27, 2015.



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

September 2, 2015

Subject: ERA15FA330 – Airplane Accident in Alabaster, AL

Who: Witness – Jim Morrison

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

- I was just doing blood trail training with my dog, a Labrador.
- On North end of the airport and was working with dog and going home.
- I heard the approach, saw the approach, and saw him hit the tree line.
- When I got into field was when it went up into flames.
- Hearing the airplane just didn't sound right
- It just sounded horrible
- I had windows down since the dog was in the back seat and was hot.
- It sound like the motor was coming apart – it sounded horrible.
- I saw it last minute, it looked a little, it wasn't flying smooth to me.
- I think my focus was more on the sound, I just remember the sound of it.



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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August 29, 2015

Subject: ERA15FA330 - Witness

Who: John Ward – Airport Employee and Fire Fighter

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

- He works at the airport and clocked out at 7:00 pm.
- When he left main office, he had to go to storage hangar south of office.
- He drove up there and didn't notice anything unusual.
- When he came out of the hangar and turned to the south to get into his car, he noticed a plume of smoke, black smoke.
- He drove to end of the runway to see if he could get a better view and noticed that the smoke was not on airport property.
- Turned around and gotten to gate and dialed 911 at 7:06 PM.
- Tried to give good location to the emergency personnel from his vantage point. Driven and parked in dentist parking lot.
- He beat the fire department by less than a minute and got to back side of building and through the trees.
- Noticed about 8-10 other people out there to help.
- By the time he got there the airplane was engulfed.
- Since he worked at the airport, he noticed that on the copilot side just below windscreen saw the word "Cirrus."
- That night, there were 4-5 airplanes in the traffic pattern.
- While working, he listened to the common traffic advisory frequency on and off and didn't hear anything unusual on radio, standard pattern traffic calls.
- It was less than a minute from the time he arrived at the accident site to when the ballistic rocket went off.
- Right after that he noticed the fire truck in the bank parking lot and they came through to extinguish fire.
- One of the airplane owners returned from Chicago that morning and paid fuel bill and left.

- He heard pilot call on the radio a couple of times but he was working and doing standard closing things, he would hear 1116C call in and it was the standard call in, nothing out of the ordinary.
- Heard from other pilots in the pattern with him, said the accident airplane was just flying in the pattern.



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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August 29, 2015

Subject: ERA15FA330

Who: Robert Henderson - Witness

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

- Sitting in back yard and saw planes coming in and out.
- We saw him coming in and he was coming in a little low.
- Sounded to me like he was having throttle issues.
- It sounded like it just stopped.
- Coming in fine but it was low.
- When we got there it was already engulfed.
- "He wasn't very high at all, he didn't have a ¼ mile before he was on the runway."
- He heard from other witnesses that the airplane was coming in fine and then just went straight down, or nose dived.
- Sounded like he was trying to "get fuel"
- You didn't hear any engine noise and it just stopped.
- However, if was something like that you would think he would have been able to glide it in or something.



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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September 15, 2015

Subject: ERA15FA330 – Witness

Who: Shirley Myrick

In a telephone conversation, Ms. Myrick stated the following:

- I had to smoke outside.
- I went outside right before it was getting dark, right around 7 o'clock.
- I heard this plane, and we have a lot of crop duster planes in the area.
- It came over the trailer and I heard the engine cut out.
- I didn't pay too much attention because I thought it was a crop duster.
- It got right in front of the house and it the engine cut off again.
- Then, I saw the airplane take a sharp left.
- It was still steady but the engine died again.
- After that, I couldn't see it because it went straight down.
- It was at the same altitude and everything, but then it went behind the trees.
- It was probably 20 feet above the trees when I first saw it.
- I couldn't read anything on the airplane; I could just see how big it was.
- Engine cut out 3 times.
- Heading toward Birmingham and then it made a sharp left turn.



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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April 13, 2016

Subject: ERA15FA330
Who: Mrs. Mary Wyatt – Pilot's Wife

In a telephone conversation, Ms. Wyatt stated:

- That the pilot had recently gone to get a new medical.
- He was on an anxiety medication that was not approved by the Federal Aviation Administration but had stopped taking it so that he could fly.
- He had his own company, which was very stressful.
- He stopped taking that unapproved medication just so he could fly.
- She didn't think he was taking any other type of medication.
- The pilot had gone back to the doctor a few days before the accident and he might have gotten on a new medication then, however she didn't get a chance to talk with him about it.
- The pilot was very much a rule follower, so she didn't think he would take an unapproved medication.
- He didn't do drugs or didn't drink heavily.
- She knew he was stressed at work and was trying to find a hobby to relax him, which is why he turned to flying since he enjoyed it.
- He did take medication to treat anxiety.