

Hicks Ralph

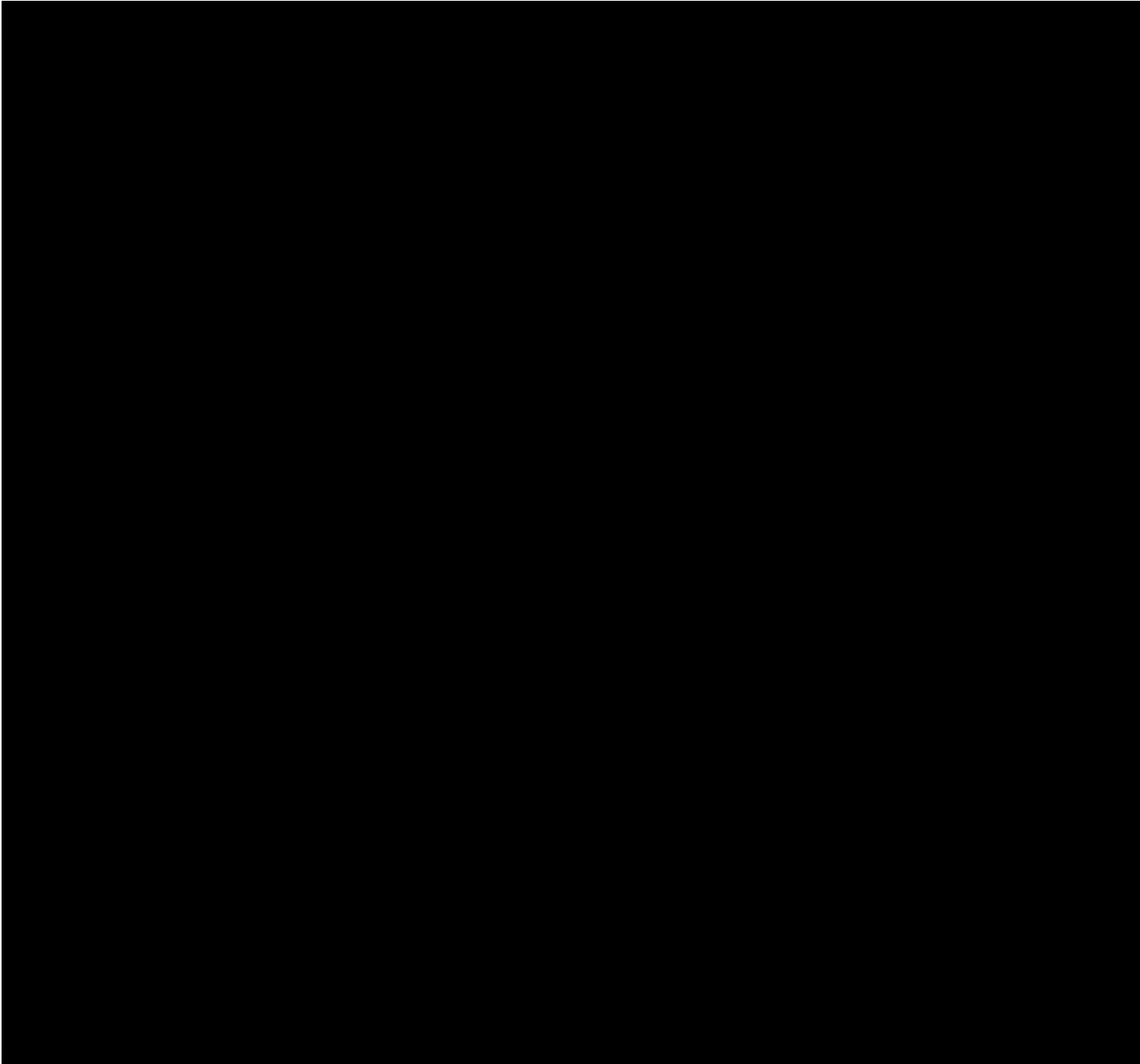
From: [REDACTED] Mihalyak [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, September 06, 2016 11:02 AM
To: Hicks Ralph
Subject: RE: Accident information (Laurel, DE)
Attachments: image2 (3).jpg

[REDACTED]
AT THE FINISH OF THE LAST PASS OF SPRAYING A FIELD IN SUSSEX COUNTY DELAWARE, PILOT REPORTS HEARING A LOUD BANG FOLLOWED BY LOSS OF ENGINE POWER. AIRCRAFT WAS BETWEEN 20 TO 60 FEET AGL AND PILOTS STATES HE INITIATED A 40 TO 60 DEGREE LEFT TURN INTO THE WIND FOR A FORCED LANDING IN A CORN FIELD. AIRCRAFT TOUCHED DOWN AND, DURING THE LANDING ROLL AFTER SLOWING, SOFT SAND AND CORN STALKS CAUSED THE TAIL TO PITCH UP. THE AIRCRAFT STOOD ON THE NOSE FOR SEVERAL SECONDS BEFORE FALLING INVERTED ON THE GROUND. THE PILOT WAS UNINJURED AND EXITED THE AIRCRAFT AFTER SHUTTING OFF AIRCRAFT ELECTRICAL POWER.

INSPECTION OF THE AIRCRAFT REVEALED THAT A BIRD LIKELY STRUCK THE SPRAY PUMP FAN ASSEMBLY CAUSING A FAN BLADE TO SEPARATE FROM THE ASSEMBLY AND PENETRATE THE LOWER ENGINE COWLING. AFTER PENETRATION OF THE ENGINE COWLING, THE SEPARATED FAN BLADE STRUCK THE ENGINE THROTTLE LINKAGE BENDING IT AND CAUSING THE THROTTLE TO ROTATE INTO THE IDLE CUTOFF POSITION.

A BIRD STRIKE IS CONSIDERED LIKELY AS THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF FEATHERS IN THE ENGINE COMPARTMENT ALONG WITH THE FRACTURED PUMP FAN BLADE PIECES.

[REDACTED]



The last annual was completed at 5/13/2016 and the AD's were current. I had performed a routine ramp inspection of this aircraft only a week prior to this accident.

Additionally, I have attached another photo that I have that was taken in the field.

Regards,
Gregory J. Mihalyak

Gregory J. Mihalyak
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Aviation Safety Inspector (Airworthiness)
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