



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Who: John Maroney, Eyewitness

When: May 6, 2017

RE: ERA17FA174, Clearwater, FL

Mr. Maroney was interviewed in person at the Clearwater Airpark (CLW), the day after the accident. He said he worked at the airport's FBO and was being trained as a fueler. It was his first day on the job. Mr. Maroney is not a pilot.

Mr. Maroney stated that he was standing in front of the FBO (airport side) and observed several airplane's land on runway 16. They were landing one right after another. Mr. Maroney saw N271TS on final approach and everything appeared normal. He temporarily lost sight of the Cirrus but then heard its engine go to full power. Mr. Maroney then observed the Cirrus in a near vertical climb before it rolled left, on to its back, and descend inverted toward the east. The airplane disappeared from his view but he knew it was going to crash. Mr. Maroney shouted for someone to call 911 and responded to the accident, where he saw the airplane had crashed inverted adjacent to the taxiway.

Mr. Maroney said the wind was blowing very hard at the time of the accident and it would gust heavy for about 30 seconds, then stop. Then gust heavy again. He said thunderstorms were moving across the airport at the time of the accident. Mr. Maroney did not see any lightning with the storms.

Leah D. Read
Sr. Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board