



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Ralph E. Hicks
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: March 22, 2017
Personal Contacted: Jimmy Smith, Carthage, TN ([REDACTED])
NTSB Accident Number: ERA17LA083 – Carthage, TN

This investigator interviewed Mr. Smith by telephone:

- He was outside and observed the pilot, Mr. McDonald, depart the airstrip for Nashville. The weather was “stormy” and the wind was “blowing really strong.” It was a “real windy day.” He was gone about 2 hours.
- He observed the pilot return to the airstrip 2 hours later, and he circled around the property. It looked like he was doing great. The wind was still strong, as it had been earlier. He said the wind was coming from different directions, variable, strong and gusting.
- He watched the airplane as the pilot was about to touch down. Just before touchdown, the “left wing drop down and the right wing came up suddenly.” The airplane then went nose down and stopped.
- During the landing the engine was “running great, no misfires or roughness.” He has been a mechanic for years and knows the sound of an engine that is not running well.