



RECORD of CONVERSATION

Millicent Hill
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: September 26, 2017
Person Contacted: Michael Dows, FAA Inspector

This investigator interviewed Mr. Dows by telephone and email, he stated traveled to the accident site and inspected the airplane.

- There was an extensive postcrash fire that consumed the cockpit, cabin, empennage, and both wings.
- The pilot had just purchased the airplane and was returning to his home airport, William M. Tuck Airport (W78), South Boston, Virginia.
- The pilot made a precautionary landing to a field due to a possible fuel transfer issue.
- The pilot held a commercial pilot certificate with ratings for airplane single-engine land, airplane single-engine sea, airplane multiengine land, and instrument airplane. He also possessed mechanic certificate with ratings for airframe and powerplant. He had accrued about 16,000 total flight hours.
- After confirming fuel flow to the engine he elected to depart from a field of high, matted grass.
- The pilot reported he was not able to get enough airspeed to climb out and clear the trees at the end of the field. He attempted to turn, which resulted in a low altitude stall. The airplane impacted terrain left wing first, then cartwheeled and came to rest upright in a corn field.
- A postcrash fire ensued and the airplane was destroyed.