



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Heidi Kemner
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

November 8, 2017

Subject: ERA18FA016
Who: David Burns – Background Witness

In a conversation, Mr. Burns stated the following:

- Mr. Burns is a pilot who started flying when he was 16 years old.
- He said that he wouldn't have gone flying that night with the weather being so low.
- He and the private pilot were on a fishing trip over the weekend in Destin, Florida.
- On Monday, November 6, they went fishing really early, came back, and had dinner. The private pilot didn't have any alcohol that night.
- Also, the private pilot didn't have any medical issues that he told Mr. Burns about and wasn't on any medications.
- Mr. Burns tried to talk the private pilot into riding back from Florida with him instead of flying since the weather was bad.
- Mr. Burns called all the local AWOS in the area that night and all of the airports were reporting low ceilings.
- The flight instructor was probably in the left seat since the private pilot didn't have an instrument rating.
- The private pilot was supposed to take his instrument checkride on November 27th.
- The private pilot went from 0 hours of flight time to buying an airplane to his instrument checkride in about 13 months.
- The flight instructor flew down and picked up the private pilot in Destin, Florida on November 7th.
- The private pilot had about 40 hours of actual instrument time since he flew the airplane everywhere for work and would take the flight instructor with him.



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Subject: ERA18FA016
Who: James Ledbetter – Background Witness

In a conversation, Mr. Ledbetter stated the following:

- Mr. Ledbetter lives about a mile from the accident site.
- He didn't see the airplane accident happen, but he heard the engine.
- He heard it "throttle up, throttle back, and throttle up," before he saw a flash and heard a "boom."
- The "engine was wide open" when it hit the ground.



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Subject: ERA18FA016
Who: Ryan Osborne - Witness

In a conversation, Mr. Osborne stated the following:

- Mr. Osborne lives about a mile from the accident site.
- He couldn't see any lights of the airplane, but it sounded like it was "buzzing the house."
- It sounded like it was doing aerobatics.
- The engine was "so loud."
- It sounded like it was doing "crazy maneuvers."
- The engine sounded like "they would give it gas, and then let off the gas, and then give it gas."
- After he heard the engine sound like it got gas again, he heard a "loud boom."