



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Adam Gerhardt
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 9/4/2018

Person Contacted: Robert Poiesz (Witness)

NTSB Accident Number: ERA18FA240

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred at the Covington Municipal Airport (M04), Covington, Tennessee, with Robert Poiesz. Present at this interview was Adam Gerhardt (NTSB), Todd Gunther (NTSB), Dan Merrell (FAA), and Robert Harris.

- Mr. Poiesz reported that he observed the accident, while in the rear seat of a truck near the middle of the M04 airport on the taxiway.
- He reported that he observed the airplane coming in over the field to make a low pass, and he could hear the engine running smoothly. He said, “it was not at idle” and it “had power.”
- He observed the airplane cross the airport about 200 ft above ground. He said he was not sure what the airspeed was. He then could see the airplane to his left, flying over the cotton field, and then saw a “gentle pull up,” to the point where he could see the canard. At this time, he noticed a “wave like movement” in the left wing. It was like a “wiggle.” He then observed “the left wing failed mid-span.” The nose pitched up “violently,” the right wing “snapped off,” and numerous pieces departed the airplane. The airplane then “tumbled down to the left.” He then saw fire and smoke.
- Mr. Poiesz reported that he held airline transport pilot and commercial pilot certificates and has military flight experience.