



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

Record of Conversation

Who: Dave Faxon, Passenger

When: August 13, 2018

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Faxon stated that he had broken his pelvis in three places and was still in the hospital/rehab facility.

Mr. Faxon said that he and Mr. Lewis had flown together several times and he considered Mr. Lewis to be a "very good pilot" who "knows his limits." On the day of the accident, Mr. Lewis made "1 or 2" landings on the river and they were taking off again so they could go meet another friend who had also landed further up the river.

Mr. Faxon said that after they took off, the pilot had made a left hand turn over the corn field at "tree top height." Mr. Lewis then attempted to make another left hand turn to line up with the "very winding" river. As the pilot initiated the turn, Mr. Faxon saw trees ahead of them and told Mr. Lewis to, "pull up, pull up!" He said Mr. Lewis was "struggling" with the control stick and was unable to pull up and clear the trees. The airplane clipped the tops of the trees and impacted the river in a left nose down attitude. The engine was running the entire time. Mr. Faxon said he passed out for a few seconds but came to and floated to the shore.

Mr. Faxon said he did not notice if the pilot's ADSB unit had come loose during the flight. He said, "It may have, but not sure."

Leah D. Read, Sr. ASI