



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Who: Janice Gratton

When: January 29, 2019

In a phone conversation, Mrs. Gratton stated she had just stepped outside her home to let her dog out when she first observed the airplane approaching the airport. The engine was running smoothly (no knocking or sputtering), but it sounded as if the airplane was lower to the ground than normal. Mrs. Gratton said the airplane struck trees and she simultaneously heard a tree splitting and the airplane hitting the ground. She said the entire accident happened “just like that.” Mrs. Gratton said the airplane was not going very fast and appeared to be on a normal glidepath to the runway, but it was “just too low.”

Mrs. Gratton said it was very dark out that night, cold, and the air was “thick”, and cloudy. There was a little bit of wind, but not too windy. She called 911 and drove to where she last saw the airplane, but it was too dark outside, and the airplane crashed in a thick briar patch. A neighbor was able to mow a path into the wreckage site so rescue personnel could access the scene.

Leah D. Read, Sr. ASI