



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Lynn Spencer
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: 5/31/2019; 0930 EDT
Person Interviewed: Alexander Fonarow, pilot rated passenger
NTSB Accident Number: ERA19LA149

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the above-named individual:

- The private pilot rated passenger stated that no anomalies were noted during the runup and that they would not have flown the airplane had they noted anything wrong.
- He stated that the first indication to him that something was wrong was on base leg, when the pilot went to add power to level off at 500 feet agl.
- Mr. Fonarow did not hear or see anything unusual, but instead noted that there did not appear to be any engine response. He recalled no distinct sound of the engine quitting.
- He stated that the pilot cycled the propeller and attempted a hot start.
- He said that with gear down and the flaps at two notches, they had a lot of drag.
- They discussed if they would make it a nearby lake and determined that it was not possible.
- He did not recall any radio calls, or if the pilot switched fuel tanks.
- He stated that the pilot was about to put in a full slip when he hit the power lines, and the airplane dropped tail first to the ground.



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Date: 4/17/2019; 1530 EDT
Person Interviewed: Derek Mordarski, witness
NTSB Accident Number: ERA19LA149

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the above-named individual:

- Derek is a pilot who has been flying 4 years, 2 years as a private pilot
- He lives under the downwind portion of the traffic pattern at the Meriden Airport.
- He tends to look around whenever he hears a plane, and the afternoon of the accident he and his wife had just returned home
- When he got out of his car, he heard the airplane flying overhead looked up to watch it on downwind.
- He lost sight of the airplane behind his house, and it was at that time that he heard the engine RPM increase a bit and then he heard a “pop” and the sound of decreasing engine RPM. He said it sounded like, “WHIRMMM! pop! whirmmmmmm”
- The airplane came back into view as the pilot was turning to the base leg.
- When the airplane turned to final approach, he noted that the airplane was too low and descending too fast, and he heard no engine sound.
- He was afraid the airplane was going to hit the school and was hoping that the pilot was heading to a field.
- He watched as the airplane struck the power lines, and heard 3-4 “booms” as the wires shorted out.