

2 June 2020. [REDACTED]

On the afternoon I observed a Mooney flying at Lakeridge airport Durham NC. As it was passing the hanger of Stell Askew [REDACTED] Durham I observed the aircraft in level flight gear down but at a very slow speed approx. 50 mph and mid height of the opposite tree line 30-35 feet. After passing the hanger the aircraft was slowing down and it was on the left side of the runway. The left wing dropped to about 30-35 degree angle then the nose started to come down, the plane made a turn to the left and the left wing struck the ground and spun the plane. I ran toward the aircraft when I heard the noise from the crash. I called to Stell to get a fire extinguisher. When I arrived at the site the passenger was out of the plane I asked if the mags were off and the master switch was off the pilot responded yes. The passenger (his son) tried to assist the pilot in getting out but then went away to make a phone call. I assisted the pilot in getting out on the wing as his artificial left leg was hung up. The smell of fuel was present and the inboard wing was slick I kept sliding while trying to help the pilot so I went and stood on the ground. After getting him out onto the wing I entered the cockpit to secure the fuel selector and mixture and checked for fire and none was present. His son and others moved the pilot to the ground. After the rescue squad arrived and other people arrived I returned to the hanger.

Michael Hammill A&P IA
[REDACTED]

From: Pilot
To: Dan Kelly
Subject: Statement
Date: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 3:15:56 PM

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I apologize for my tardiness with my statement, but my knowledge of what happened in the situation is not expansive. Being my first time in a personal aircraft, I have limited information for what happened. What I can remember was beginning our flight. We went through the entire preflight checklist line for line after that we approached the runway. At the runway we went back through the list to make sure everything was completed. After confirming that everything had been done we prepared for takeoff. We got up to speed and lifted from the ground. After a few seconds in flight the plane was pushed hard to the side to where it couldn't be corrected and the plane crash landed. Again, my understanding of what went on is very limited and I apologize for that. Thank you for your understanding and I hope this is sufficient information for what you need.

What flight was for: relocating the aircraft to a new hangar.

What airport it was at: Lake Ridge Airport in Durham.

Sincerely,
Alexander Trimarchi

From: Witness
To: Dan Kelly
Subject: Statement for Plane Crash
Date: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 3:09:09 PM

Hi Dan,

Here is my statement from the accident, please let me know if any other information is needed.
Thank you!

Best,

Sarah Trimarchi

Statement: My name is Sarah Trimarchi, I am the wife of Alex Trimarchi and daughter in law of Pete Trimarchi. I watched Pete and Alex takeoff at approximately 4:15pm on Tuesday June 2nd. I do not have any experience with airplanes. I was watching from the entrance of the airport on the road, near the mailbox, which provides a view of the end of the runway. Prior to Pete/Alex getting into the plane, I observed Pete walk through numerous steps to check the exterior plane- carefully removing the cover, ensuring that sensors were appropriately uncovered, there was no water in the gas tank, the gas tank was appropriately filled for the flight, the engine had oil and there were no debris, the propellers were clean and unaffected by any defects. These are just the events that I picked up on as an unattentive bystander. I watched them taxi down the runway, and lost sight of them for approximately 10 minutes because the end of the runway was not visible from where I parked my car. When I did see the plane, it appeared to be ascending normally. When the plane began to clear the treeline, I saw the nose dip slightly, then the plane appeared to lift up quickly with the right wing slightly higher than the left, the plane then following an arc like path that appeared to end swiftly at the base of the trees on the left side of the runway. I could not see the plane at the base of the trees from where I was located and immediately called 911/alerted others at the airport to help.

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