



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Eastern Region – Ashburn, Virginia

Memorandum of Record

Who: Chris Rogers, CFI

Date: November 25, 2019

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Rogers stated that he was standing on the western edge of taxiway alpha with a handheld radio. He was there to observe one of his students who was going to solo that day. Mr. Rogers said he initially saw the accident airplane parked behind his student in the run-up area near the departure end of runway 36. He said the accident airplane stayed in the run-up area for quite a while. Mr. Rogers said that after his student departed, he was very focused on watching him as he flew in the traffic pattern. The next time Mr. Rogers observed the accident airplane it was departing. He said the airplane used almost the entire length of the runway to depart. When it rotated, the airplane was "pitching up fairly aggressively" and he could see the entire top of the airplane. Mr. Rogers said the airplane stalled and entered a spin. The airplane spun to the left a quarter of a rotation "where the plane was completely vertical upon impact with the ground." Mr. Rogers said he did not recall anything about the sound of the engine because he was more focused on his student. He said that it is not unusual to see pilots flying their sport airplanes low and level over the runway before making a steep climb near the end of the runway, and that is what he thought the accident pilot was doing.

Leah D. Read, Sr. ASI