

Inspector Davidson's Statement

On May 15, 2020 at approximately 1407 local an Ercoupe 415-CD, with registration N3956H crashed 700 hundred feet short of Runway 7 at the Hawkins County Airport (RVN) located in Surgoinsville TN. Weather at the time of accident was VFR and slight wind gust 5 to 10 knots. The owner and private pilot James H. Summer's certificate number [REDACTED] was at the controls and he considered Hawkins County his home airport.

Private Pilot James H. Summers was operating as a Light Sport Pilot and used his Driver License as medical identification. Medical records did not disclose any request to operate under Light Sport Rules.

The aircraft held a Standard Airworthiness Certificate. Maintenance records indicate Annual Inspections were being completed by James H. Summer acting on his Inspector Authorization Certificate. Maintenance records presented were not current and current records were never the located, 2017 and 2018 noted Annual Inspection and completed by James H. Summers.

James H. Summer's friends, which are pilots, were awaiting his return to Hawkins County Airport. Mr. Summer stated he was just making a short sightseeing flight, he departed and 20 minutes later returned. The two pilot friends watched his approached to Runway 7, they both noted how low the aircraft was, right wing clipped top of trees knocking down some small branches. This caused the aircraft to pivot and slam into the ground. A Post-crash fire destroyed the aircraft, excluding a small tail portion and burned the pilot.

The witness also stated the engine sounded fine and no emergency intentions were heard over the Unicom frequency.

FAA was on scene the next day and completed on scene duties.

Rocky Davidson
Aviation Safety Inspector
Nashville Tennessee Flight Standards District Office AFG-200-CE-19

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