



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Aaron McCarter
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 07/13/2020
Person Contacted: Mr. Paul Daw (Farmer)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA220

Narrative:

Mr. Daw had never met the pilot (Kritter) before. "Nutrien Ag Solutions" had contact with the pilot and reached out to Daw and sold the crop-dusting services on the pilot's company behalf.

All Daw knew was that his field was going to get sprayed. He made payment, but never met the pilot. He would have met with him eventually to establish a relationship for possible future crop spraying. This was the first time that Kritter sprayed the field.

Daw explained the process like having a group of neighbors who all wanted their lawn mowed. One lawn gets mowed, then the "company" reaches out to the surrounding homes. It's a convenient way to get many lawns done at once and saves the company operating costs and time and also makes it convenient for the farmer who doesn't have to schedule it; "Can you do mine too while you're here?" It's very common.

Daw, explained that he does not own the field (20 acres) He leases the field for farming. He stated the field has been sprayed for years. There have been no issues with any of the previous crop-dusting in the past.

The "dove line" post and wire have been in place for at least 20 years, maybe even 30 years. Even if he owned the field and met with the pilot, it is impossible to remember everything with over 3,000 acres. Maybe there should be some very specific questions the crop spraying company can ask before conducting any operations.

Daw provided contact information for Nutrien Ag.

[END]



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Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 07/14/2020
Person Contacted: Mr. Jordan Elmore (Nutrien Ag.)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA220

Narrative:

Nutrien Ag Solutions (Mr. Jordan Elmore) had contact with the pilot and reached out to Daw and sold the crop-dusting services on the pilot's (company) behalf. Nutrien Ag normally only acts as salesmen in the field for the distribution of the chemicals/pesticides. They all know each other very well and consider the pilots and farmers friends. At the time he thought nothing of helping his friend out by securing the spraying job, that way, when the pilot landed, he could immediately go to work on the field. There was no discussion with the farmer (Daw) about any hazards on the property. It never came up.

[END]