



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Millicent Hill
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: September 16, 2020
Person Contacted: Fred Raney
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA312

This investigator interviewed Mr. Raney by telephone.

Mr. Raney stated he had just purchased the airplane a couple weeks before the accident. After transporting it was reassembled at his hanger with the help of the airport owner, who had experience with Challengers. He had known the pilot for a couple years and stated he had “flown lots of Challengers” and had “extensive experience with them.” He told the pilot the airplane did not have insurance, was not registered, and did not have a current annual; he planned to have the annual inspection completed a few days later. He told the pilot “He could run it up and down the field. Don’t takeoff, just taxi on the ground.” He watched him start the airplane and begin a high-speed taxi. Unexpectedly, the airplane lifted off, he thought the pilot would fly around the pattern and land. Instead, he watched the airplane climb and fly straight for about one half a mile, to a height of about 250 to 300 ft above ground level, then “suddenly nose over.” He stated the engine was not seized and the propeller was still spinning when the airplane disappeared behind trees.

He saw smoke and drove towards the accident site. He stated the backyard the airplane came to rest in was on the edge of a large field, he believed had the pilot had a mechanical problem he would have had room for a forced landing.

Fred Roney

09/11/2020 12:06

Tim Williamson was supposed to do a taxi
test and if checked okay he was to do test flight
he taxied to end of field Lit throttle took off
slings line leveled off then nose dived
into the ground.

9-10-2020

WITNESS STATEMENT:

TIM WILLIAMSON, PILOT, WANTED TO TAXI THE AIR PLANE, CHALLENGER #N56906. HE TAXIED THE AIRCRAFT TO THE END OF THE FIELD AT WESTWIND, TURNED INTO THE WIND AND TOOK OFF. I WATCHED AS HE GAINED ALTITUDE, CONTINUALLY FLYING STRAIGHT LINE, AIRCRAFT FLYING NORMAL, ENGINE NORMAL. APPROXIMATELY 0.5 MILES FROM AIRPORT, I SEE AIRCRAFT NOSE DOWN, HEARD CRASH & SAW SMOKE FROM RESULTING FIRE.

FRED M. RANEY /
11 SEP 82

ADDRESS:



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Date: September 16, 2020
Person Contacted: Tim Spurling
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA312

This investigator interviewed Mr. Spurling by telephone.

Mr. Spurling stated he and the owner of the airplane met with the previous owner before he ferried the airplane from Arkansas to Tennessee. The previous owner took Mr. Spurling and the new owner for a flight before he departed for Tennessee. He stated the airplane flew “fine” and “climbed like an angel.” Along the flight he encountered turbulence in a mountain pass and he elected to land. He chose not to continue the flight through possibly more turbulent mountain passes, the airplane was disassembled and trucked the remaining distance to the owner’s hangar. He flew the airplane three times and “it had no problems.”