



NTSB MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

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National Transportation Safety Board

Date: 6/22/2021
Person Contacted: PERRY SMITH (Kinston Drag Strip Personnel)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21FA257

Narrative:

Mr. Perry Smith was contacted via telephone and reported the following details pertaining to the accident:

- Mr. Smith reported that he was working at the Kinston Drag Strip the evening of the accident. At the time of the flyover, he was on the track next to drag racing cars that were getting ready to race.
- He reported that suddenly an airplane came into his view. The airplane flew over and “dove down” at the lake next to the track and then “went vertical” and turned 90°. He believed he observed the airplane up-side-down.
- When the plane was at the top of the climb and upside down, Mr. Smith stated that, “I could tell the propeller was changing speeds when it went upside down.” He added that the propeller appeared to slow down, where he could see the movement of the blades, versus the propeller not being visible.
- He reported that he was next to race cars, and he was wearing earmuffs and a communication radio, which made it hard to hear the airplane engine. He stated that he could hear the airplane as it entered the climb.
- Mr. Smith reported that the plane then appeared to “stall out” and then rapidly descended and exploded upon impact.
- Mr. Smith reported that he immediately jumped on a moped and drove down the track toward the airplane. A fire truck was already located on the track due to the active drag racing. Mr. Smith reported that he was the first person to grab the fire hose and apply water to the fuselage and cockpit area to contain the fire. He believed they sprayed for about 10 minutes until the flames were diminished.



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- Mr. Smith reported that the pilot remained belted into his seat. He reported that the pilot did not have a pulse after the flames were reduced to a level where they could reach the pilot.
- Mr. Smith reported that the Sunday prior to the accident day, he was working at the drag strip and this same airplane performed a flyover. He added that the pilot performed a few barrel rolls during the flyover. He also stated that the airplane was emitting some sort of mist or smoke during the maneuvers which he believed was for the spectators.
- He further stated that these flyovers were not approved nor requested by the Kinston Drag Strip to the best of his knowledge.

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