

Peter Wentz
Air Safety Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety, Eastern Region

Date: July 1, 2021

Subject: ERA21FA274

Contact: Interview with Mr. Cochran, witness

Mr. Cochran stated he was traveling northbound on US-1 next to the Northeast Florida Regional Airport (SGJ), St. Augustine, Florida around 1427 on June 29, 2021. He reported seeing a small airplane approaching the airport runway about 100 ft above the ground and traveling at an estimated speed of 70 to 80 mph, with the wings swaying up and down about 1 foot in each direction. He also stated the nose of the airplane appeared to be in a nose up attitude before the airplane pitched down to about a 45° before impacting the runway. Mr. Cochran stated a fire immediately engulfed the airplane as it slid about 75 yards down the runway and continued to burn. He stated he pulled his vehicle into the median of US-1 and called 911 to report the accident. He did not call seeing any movement inside or outside the airplane.