



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Millicent Hill
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: August 9, 2021
Person Contacted: Joshua and Mandy Hires
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21FA318

The witnesses were interviewed by Detective Pinder interviewed Mr. and Ms. Hires:

The following is a summary of the interviews:

- Mr. Hires said they were in the middle of the lake when they looked up and saw the airplane. Ms. Hires videoed the airplane with her phone and then called 911.
- They initially thought the airplane was doing tricks.
- They rushed over to offer assistance, they located the parachute and the pilot. With assistance from another boater, they pulled him out of the water and brought him to shore. They noticed a smell of fumes on the pilot.
- They did not notice the airplane before they started videotaping.
- Mr. Hires spoke with another witness who reported seeing the airplane "flying real low" over the trees before flying over Lake Weir.



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Date: August 9, 2021
Person Contacted: Jacob Merritt
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21FA318

The witness was interviewed by Detective Camery interviewed Mr. Merritt:

The following is a summary of the interview:

- Mr. Merritt said he and a friend were out fishing on the lake when the accident occurred.
- The airplane “spiraled around” and got closer to the water, about 100 ft above the water he saw the pilot jump out.
- He said the airplane was level, but spinning in circles, and then upside down, then right side up, then upside down again.
- He went toward where the airplane impacted. He got onto another boat and helped pull the pilot from the water.
- His attention wasn’t drawn to the airplane until it began spinning towards the water. He looked up and the airplane was spinning for about 20 to 30 seconds before impacting the water.
- He stated the engine was running but the airplane kept spiraling .



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Date: August 9, 2021
Person Contacted: Mckenzie Mikeska
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21FA318

The witness was interviewed by Detective Camery interviewed Mr. Mikeska:

The following is a summary of the interview:

- Ms. Mikeska said she was on a boat on the lake when the accident occurred.
- She saw a yellow plane spiraling down into the lake.
- Her mom, on the boat with her, saw the pilot jump prior to the airplane impacting the water.
- They went towards where the airplane impacted and saw gasoline on the surface of the water.
- She stated she is a nurse and that she boarded the boat, checked for a pulse on the pilot, after determining the pilot was deceased she got back on her boat.
- She did not see the airplane until it was spiraling into the water.