

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
Vehicle Recorder Division
Washington, D.C. 20594

November 3, 2021

Personal Electronic Devices

Specialist's Factual Report By W. Deven Chen

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Farmington, Connecticut
Date: September 2, 2021
Aircraft: Cessna 560 XL
Registration: N560AR
Operator: Brook Haven Properties LLC
NTSB Number: ERA21FA346

2. GROUP

A group was not convened.

3. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

On September 23, 2021, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received the following personal electronic devices (PEDs):

Device Manufacturer/Model: **Apple iPhone 11 Pro (passenger #1)**
IMEI Number: **353239101680756**

Device Manufacturer/Model: **Apple iPhone 11 Pro (passenger #2)**
IMEI Number: **353245105292407**

3.1. Device Description

PEDs are a category of devices comprised primarily of portable computing devices and mobile phones. Portable computing devices are typically capable of internet access, email, messaging services, and can run user-installed applications to perform specific tasks. Depending on the model, mobile phones can perform many of the same tasks as portable computing devices, plus have voice call and text messaging capabilities. PED user and system data is typically stored on non-volatile memory¹ and can be accessed through manufacturer-provided interfaces.

3.2. Data Recovery

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Division, an exterior examination revealed that passenger #1's phone did not appear to have sustained damage, as shown in Figure 1, and

¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.

that passenger #2's phone had sustained severe damage, as shown in Figure 2. Figure 3 shows the interior of the passenger #2's phone revealing the lithium-ion battery of the phone caught fire, and that the motherboard next to the battery had sustained severe thermal damage. Further examination revealed that many components on the motherboard melted due to the thermal damage. The extent of the damage precluded normal and advanced recovery procedures of the lab. Therefore, no data pertinent to the event were recovered from passenger #2's phone.

Passenger #1's phone powered on normally and was locked a six-digit password. There was no passcode provided to the lab. Thus, no data pertinent to the event were recovered from passenger #1's phone.



Figure 1: Front and Back of the passenger #1's phone as received.

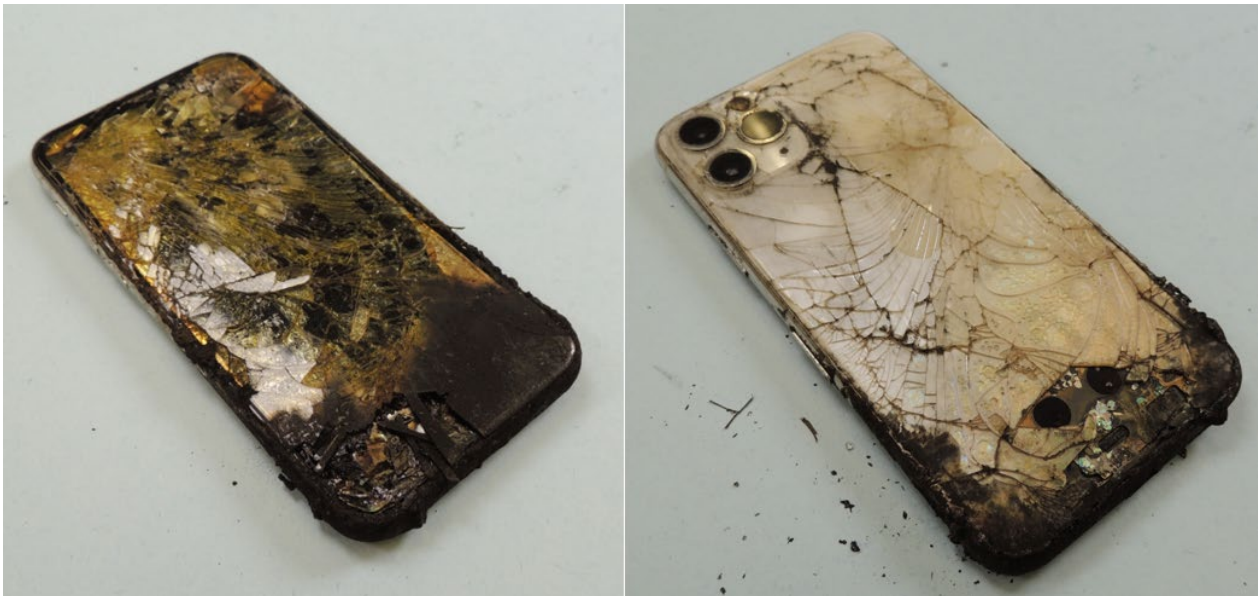


Figure 2: Front and Back of the passenger #2's phone as received.



Figure 3: Interior of the passenger #2's phone.