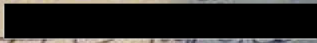


September 27, 2021

I arrived at the New River Gorge Airport hanger at 10:00 am on Sunday September 26, 2021 and observed a maroon and white airplane across the runway from the hanger in the grass with engine started. The plane sit there for a few minutes and was revving up the engine. It then came out on the runway, went to the east end of the runway turned around and started back up the runway. He went all the way to the west end of the runway, turned around and came back down by the hanger to the east end. From there he turned again to the west and came back up the runway. As he passed in front of the hanger where I was standing the planes are usually airborne by this time but he was not so I thought he was doing another practice run, but he kept going and I was watching and thought he was going too fast to stop at the end of the runway but not fast enough to take off. However at almost the end of the runway the plane went up just above the trees and made a sharp left and went down sideways. I heard it crashing into the trees at approximately 10:15 am.


Mark Nickell

On September 25 2021 around 10am I witnessed the airplane taxiing to the end of runway 22. The pilot proceeded to do the preflight run up. He is then taxied to runway 4. It appeared that he was going to takeoff and started down the runway but cut the power and taxied back to the end of runway 22. He immediately started his takeoff roll from 22. From my position on my back porch I wasn't able to see where he lifted off but I could see the plane climbing out. Near the end of the runway or shortly thereafter the plane started a left turn of an estimated 45 degree bank and wend behind the tree line where I could no longer see it. I continued to hear the engine until the sound of impact with the ground.

Garry Kessler