

FAA Tampa FSDO Inspector

Mr. Kevan Ross

My name is Thomas Reams. I have had my pilots' certificate since 1988. I have a plane and hanger at the Wakulla airport. Yesterday afternoon about 16:15 I just happened to be watching Mr. Turner approaching the field from the north and witnessed his crash landing. My viewpoint was looking at the plane coming straight towards my location.

I wanted to give you what I saw and from a pilot's perspective what must have caused the incident. I first noticed his plane NC 7014 H about 500 ft high and .5 miles on a 180 final for Wakulla 2J0. The wind was about 150 at 6 to 8 kts and gusting maybe 10 kts max. When I first saw him approaching, he was lined up on the runway, but the wind was taking him west of centerline. He was in a crabbing forward flight and I could hear him adding power several times to correct the track and try to stay on centerline final. As he got close to the landing strip he had drifted west, and the speed of his plane had become too slow for the attitude condition of his landing. At this point he was over the road Hwy 98 north end of the field at the end of the landing strip. It was about this time when I saw his plane make a very aggressive dive towards the ground (Approach Stall) for sure. Once the plane entered this dive, it never pulled up at all and dove straight into the ground just clearing the roadway with heavy traffic at this time. He was about 80 to 100 ft high when the stall occurred, after the plane impacted the ground it only skidded about 100 ft max from the impact zone. During this dive I could see all the top of the wings and the elevators before it hit the ground. He was lucky to have survived.

I jumped into my truck and was on location in less than 2 minutes from that time. He was still in the plane at this time and a lot of cars that saw the crash stopped and were there getting him free from the cockpit. He had injuries to his face, neck, and upper body but was talking to us. He told me he had lost all control of the plane which confirms me he did stall the plane as per what I saw from my viewpoint.

If you would like to talk to me, please call me.

Thomas Reams

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