

Record of Interview

Inspector Christopher Curtis

On June 9, 2021 Inspector Bob Fus and I interviewed Sarvesh Patel. Mr. Patel is the flight instructor for Mr. Louisne, interviewed earlier in the day. I emailed Mr. Patel his Pilot Bill of Rights

Mr. Patel arrived to the conference room and we asked if he understood and explained his pilots bill of rights.

When asked what happened Mr. Patel confirmed that Mr. Louisne's aircraft was over at maintenance. He had a student so he went up flying with him. He said he heard Mr. Louisne on the radio announcing takeoff.

Mr. Patel was asked if he had ever flown Mr. Louisne's aircraft to which he replied that he had. He stated they flew the aircraft to central Jersey Regional airport on May 3rd 2021 in order to get fuel, and then one other time for a local flight. He said he would have flown it more but there was a lingering issue with an excessive mag drop that made him cancel the flights. Mr. Patel believed that the flight to get fuel on May 3rd was the only time before the accident that the aircraft had received fuel.

Mr. Patel said he was not acting as an instructor during those flights and was the sole manipulator of the flight controls. He also stated he did not receive any compensation for the flights and was just flying the aircraft so the engine could run as a favor to Mr. Louisne.

When asked about endorsements Mr. Patel stated that Mr. Louisne knew better than to depart. He had spoken to him multiple times about not being qualified in the aircraft. Which he believed Mr. Louisne understood. There was a plan developed to use Mr. Louisne's aircraft as the primary training aircraft after Mr. Louisne passed his private pilot checkride which was scheduled for June 15th 2021.

Mr. Patel was asked about emergency procedures regarding loss of power. He stated that Mr. Louisne had been trained and that on all the pre departure briefings Mr. Louisne had repeated back that in the event of a loss of engine they would continue straight and keep their head on a swivel looking for a field. He said he was surprised Mr. Louisne attempted to turn back.

Mr. Patel was thanked for his time and the interview was concluded.

CHRISTOPHER
ROTHERMEL
CURTIS

