



Heidi Kemner
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

November 9, 2021

Subject: ERA22FA050
Who: Earl Starr – Eyewitness

In a conversation, Mr. Starr stated the following:

- He watched the airplane flying and didn't hear the engine at all.
- The airplane made a gradual turn, and then started losing altitude.
- He didn't hear any engine noises until the airplane hit the tree.
- The airplane went into a flat pitch as it was going into the trees.



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Subject: ERA22FA050
Who: Jerry Stone – Mechanic

In a conversation, Mr. Stone stated the following:

- He worked on that airplane over the past several years.
- At the Annual inspection last year, the pilot thought a valve was sticking in the engine so they performed the proper procedure per the manufacturer's guidance as well as send the magnetos for overhaul.
- The pilot didn't complain of any issues with the airplane since the last annual.



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Subject: ERA22FA050
Who: Lloyd Shreckengost – Pilot's friend

In a conversation, Mr. Shreckengost stated the following:

- He and the pilot were going to change the oil in the airplane after the pilot flew it for a little while to warm up the oil.
- They were also going to perform a compression check on the engine after he returned from the flight.
- They were performing that maintenance since the airplane was about to go into another annual inspection.
- He was working in his hangar at the time of the accident and heard the pilot takeoff.
- When the airplane turned crosswind, it was a sharp turn.
- He turned north, and there was an RPM change, which was unusual. It was unusual because if he was staying in the pattern, that'd be normal, but he was turning out of the pattern and if he was in a climb, he wouldn't have reduced the power.



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Subject: ERA22FA050
Who: Sandy Hicks – Pilot's Wife

In a conversation, Mrs. Hicks stated the following:

- Her husband had flown in that airplane since he was 16 years old.
- The pilot's father owned it before they owned it. It was willed to the pilot.
- The pilot ate healthy and exercised regularly.
- He like to run and bike around the neighborhood.
- He was not on any medications.
- He did not have any recent illnesses or medical issues.