



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

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National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: 7/20/2022 1330
Person Interviewed- Jeffery Givens- Friend/hangar partner/witness
NTSB Case Number: ERA22FA320

Narrative:

Mr. Jeffery Givens was interviewed in person.

Jeff stated the pilot built the airplane in 2016 and had the VW engine installed. He stated the pilot only had about 30 hours in this airplane and he had several problems with the engine running correctly and oil leaks. In 2020, the pilot experienced a hard landing and fractured the main landing gear off the airplane. At that time, the pilot wanted to update the engine to a Lycoming series engine. Jeff stated over the next couple of years that the pilot repaired the airplane and installed the Lycoming 0-320 engine on the airframe. The airplane was completed around April 2022. Several slow speed taxies were performed over the next few weeks and on July 18, 2022 the pilot was going to fly the repaired airplane for the first time. The pilot called Jeff to come out at 0900 and help the pilot with the preflight and pull the airplane out of the hangar. Jeff stated the preflight check was good, the fuel tank was full at 12 gallons and the pilot was ready for flight. The pilot and jeff talked about what was going to happen during the first flight, Jeff said the pilot told him he was going to climb straight out to about 500 feet above ground level and then turn left and stay close to the runway while he checks out the airplane. The pilot put on his parachute, climbed into the airplane, and started the engine. The pilot set for about 10 minutes and let the engine warm up. Jeff stated the pilot gave him a thumbs up and the pilot immediately went to full throttle. The airplane immediately started to veer to the left and Jeff thought he was going to hit a large round hay bail sitting next to runway. The pilot lifted the airplane off the ground and cleared the hay bail by 6 feet. Jeff further stated that the pilot turned back to the runway to keep runway heading but was going "very slow" and as soon as he cleared the tree tops, the pilot started to make a slow left turn about 200 feet above ground level. Jeff still thought he was going slow and saw the tail of the airplane drop down and the left wing rolled hard over and the airplane spun to the ground. Jeff immediately drove over the accident site but there was nothing he could do. The airplane was completely engulfed in fire.