



Eric Alleyne
Air Safety Investigator
AS- Eastern Region Aviation

Date: August 30, 2022

Subject: ERA22FA391, Witness Statement

Contact: Amy Cooper, (friend of pilot)

According to Ms. Cooper a friend of the pilot, she said he had just purchased the airplane on 8/28/2022 and flew the airplane from Fort Payne, AL, to Jackson, TN.. She also recalled that this was the pilot's first flight in 20 years. She said that on the day of the flight he reportedly wanted to "take it up for a flight." Ms. Cooper stated that she felt that the airplane took off "real early" and did not utilize the full length of the runway. After takeoff, the airplane made a sharp turn to the left and descended below the tree line. This was followed by a loud crash. Ms. Cooper was recording the flight at the time of the accident and a review of the video coincided with Ms. Coopers statement.

The video footage showed the airplane taking off and making a sharp banking turn as described. The airplane briefly climbed above the tree line before stalling and entering a steep nose-down attitude. The airplane descended behind the trees, and the sound of a crash was heard.