

N6714S Accident near Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport (AVP)

Allentown Flight Standards District Office was notified of the accident at approximately 0300, 11/15/2021. We met with Pennsylvania State Police at 10:00 am, and reached the accident site at approximately 11:45, 11/15/2021.

Photographs were taken and subsequently forwarded to the NTSB. The aircraft wreckage was inspected and there did not appear to be any evidence of equipment malfunction or failure. The pilot and passenger were transported to a local hospital for treatment of injuries. Due to the seriousness of his injuries, the pilot was not available to make a statement for several weeks.

Dispatched to Geisinger Hospital, Wilkes-Barre, on 12/03/2021, to interview pilot. Pilot was in isolation due to COVID-19 infection. Interviewed via telephone. Pilot stated that he had a concussion, but was feeling much better. He gave the following statements:

“I checked weather and it was marginal VFR, MPO 3500, AVP 4000.” He stated that he did two take-offs and landings at AVP. After departure from AVP, at appx. 2600 ft., he was startled because he could not see outside of his aircraft, due to snow. He focused on his Attitude Indicator, straight and level. He recounted that he later checked and saved Foreflight which showed that he was slowly descending over 3-4 minutes after encountering the snow. 70-80 knots. He did not remember seeing ground before the crash. “Stopping point of Foreflight was 18:58.”

At the time of the accident, the Airman held a Private Pilot Certificate, and was training for his Instrument Rating.

These are the facts of the case.

Joseph Sablan

Aviation Safety Inspector

Allentown FSDO