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Date: February 24, 2022

Subject: ERA22LA136

Contact: Ronald Connolly - Witness

In a telephone conversation, Mr. Connolly stated the following:

- The pilot was down near the approach end of runway 22
- I opened up the airport gate and I saw him working on his ultralight - but I had a fuel load behind me on a trailer.
- The pilot was down looking at the side of his airplane.
- I continued down to my hangar and fueled my airplane up.
- Then, when I was performing a preflight inspection of the airplane in the hangar, I heard the pilot's airplane. It was broad daylight, about 1030.
- I heard the airplane first, then saw the shadow.
- Mr. Connolly thought "maybe I can see him," so I was just pushing the cover back onto the fuel and was about to step out of the hangar when he saw the shadow on the centerline of the runway.
- The airplane veered to the left, and I said, "he's going to hit the hangar."
- "BANG" - he hit the hangar.
- The engine got really loud, then he hit the hangar.
- He went over the hangar, then the airplane hit the trees and went down.

- I went back there, where the airplane was, and the engine was still running.
- I ran up and all I could think of is the airplane is going to catch on fire with the engine still running.
- The propeller wasn't turning, it looked perfect, but it wasn't running.
- I knew I had to get the engine off.
- I couldn't smell fuel, but I had no idea how to turn the engine off so I just started pulling wires until it turned off.
- I leaned down and could see the pilot's forearm, then it moved a little bit, so I told him he would be alright.
- Then he started moaning and police and EMS arrived.
- I specifically remember the shadow of the airplane going across the ground going normal speed, and then it made that turn to the left.
- There was only 6-8 knots of wind, it was basically blowing right down the runway.
- To see the airplane veer to the left, it was odd.
- The wind can be squirrely at this airport, he took off with a bit of wind.
- I know that about a month ago - Ken Mackey sold the pilot the hangar he is in.
- I talked to the pilot out in the car one day, but I didn't get to know him that well.
- It was probably 15 minutes from the time I drove it to the time he took off.