

Synopsis of Aircraft Accident N84583 at 19:02 on May 27, 2022

IIC Stewart J. Beck, Aviation Safety Inspector, Airworthiness



At 19:10 Friday evening I received a phone call from the Communications Center informing me that an Aeronca 7AC had crashed in a heavily wooded area near the intersection of Skillet Hill Road and West Newton Road (PA State Route 136). I informed the Office Manager and Frontline Managers via text that I had spoken with the police on scene and they stated that the pilot was the sole occupant of the aircraft and he was life flighted to Allegheny General Hospital due to severe trauma of his lower extremities. I coordinated with the Operations Frontline Manager and formulated a plan to be at the crash scene early Saturday morning as it was near dark when the phone portion was done, approximately 20:30.

I arrived at the crash scene approximately 07:20 Saturday morning and spoke with Kyle Deppen, an officer with the Elizabeth Township Police Department. Officer Deppen, and a couple members of the Elizabeth Township Fire Department accompanied me and led me to the site where the aircraft came to rest.



Officer Deppen stated that there were three 911 calls by witnesses claiming the aircraft had taken off from Rostraver Airport (FWQ) and, shortly after, pitched up sharply then went straight down. I am requesting transcripts of those calls from the Allegheny County 911 Center. Observations at the scene were no trees were topped, and there was a single tree with damage from top to bottom where the aircraft slid along the trunk during its descent.



Briefed Millicent Hill, NTSB Investigator, and put her in communication with Officer Deppen to coordinate extraction of the aircraft from its resting place and transport to a secure bay at the police garage that has video surveillance.

The condition of the aircraft is substantially damaged, and should be considered destroyed. There were no external indications of catastrophic engine failure from what I could see, and I suggested that the NTSB have the engine disassembled and inspected. The pilot was not available for interview due to his medical condition and injuries sustained in the crash. Our investigation is ongoing.