



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Brian C. Rayner
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: July 25, 2022
Person: Charles Hutter – Pilot/Owner
NTSB Accident Number: ERA22LA300 Plymouth, CT

Narrative:

Mr. Hutter contacted this office by telephone. He had already provided comprehensive information that had been forwarded through the FAA Inspector who worked the scene of the accident and performed follow-up research, examinations, and interviews. Mr. Hutter was asked to describe the flight itself, and the following is a summary of what he provided.

According to Mr. Hutter, he had kept his airplane and flown out of the Waterbury Airport (N41) for several years. He said the turf runway was 2000 ft long and surrounded by tall trees. At takeoff, the airplane was making “takeoff power.” When asked if he cross-checked the instruments during the initial climb, if everything was “in the green” he replied, “Yes, everything was fine.”

Mr. Hutter said that as he approached the departure end of the runway the airplane experienced “wind shear or a downdraft” and that he adjusted to best angle of climb to clear the trees at the departure end. As he approached the trees, he could see “the leaves on the tops of the trees were being pushed down. I have never dealt with wind shear or a downdraft like that before. I adjusted to best angle and hoped the wind, or the downdraft would let up.”

Mr. Hutter went on to describe the airplane’s entry into the tops of the trees, and the descent through the trees until the airplane came to rest. He said he received only minor injuries and was able to egress the airplane without assistance.