



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Pilot Statement

Christopher Freeze
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: August 31, 2022
Person Contacted: Galo Grijalva (Pilot)
Contact # [REDACTED]
NTSB Accident Number: ERA22LA388

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the individual named above:

Mr. Grijalva contacted me by phone on August 31, 2022, at 11:52 a.m. EDT. He called from [REDACTED]. He provided an e-mail address of [REDACTED].

At the beginning of the interview, he was advised that the NTSB is a federal agency mandated by Congress to investigate aircraft accidents, and NTSB has no authority to take any action against any individual. He was also informed that the purpose of an NTSB investigation is for safety only, and any person NTSB talks with has the right to representation; he agreed to the interview without representation.

Mr. Grijalva stated he has been a glider pilot for a period of ten years and had approximately 200 hours of flight experience in them. On the day of the accident, he was giving a ride to a pilot-rated passenger colleague of his. The flight proceeded normally, leaving tow at 3,000 feet to seek out thermal columns for additional lift. After some time aloft, the pilot advised his passenger that they needed to head back to their landing field.

At this point in the flight, the pilot stated the glider experienced "more down than up" in terms of altitude change. Along the glider's intended return flight path was a high school complex with tree-lined fields on the far side of. Glimpsing a potentially better field to his left, the pilot selected it.

However, in the left turn towards the field, the glide lost additional lift and rapidly descended. Approaching at 30-40 knots, the glider landed and impacted a tree line. In the post-impact sequence, both the pilot and passenger suffered minor cuts and scrapes.

The pilot agreed that there were no pre-impact anomalies or malfunctions affecting the glider's operation.

The digest was e-mailed to him for review on August 31, 2022. He replied the same day at 1:48 p.m. EDT with comments that were incorporated into the narrative, and the corrected digest was e-mailed to him.