



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Aaron McCarter
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation
NTSB Accident Number: ERA22LA389

August 30, 2022

Subject: E-mail communications with son (witness) and FAAⁱ

From: wes <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2022 6:34 PM
To: Alewine, Kevin L (FAA) [REDACTED]
Subject: Wesley Malsberger Statement Aircraft Accident 8/27/22

My Dad and I arrived at Mike's Airstrip that morning around 7AM. We pulled the airplane out of the hangar and started doing a run up per the continental procedure, checking for leaks and confirming oil pressure, RPM, etc. We put the cowling on and did a preflight. Dad taxied to the end of the runway, did a mag check, and took off. He circled the airfield for a while and came back in to check for leaks. This continued for a few hours. After his final landing we refueled the plane with gas jugs. I believe he got the fuel from the airport in Blakely, Ga. He did another mag check and taxied back to the end of the runway. He began taking off and as he came by I noticed he appeared slower than his previous takeoffs and the engine sounded different, like there was a skip to it. The airplane climbed very slowly and looked like it was gonna hit the treetops. I saw the right wing dip down and it disappeared in the trees. It looked as if he made it just above the trees but stalled once he was over the top of them. I rushed down the runway in his truck and when I made it to the edge of the treeline I could see the plane in the trees. I ran through the brush and found him lying on the ground under the plane which was stuck way up in the trees. As I got him off the ground I looked up and saw it was beginning to catch fire. We walked back through the brush to the truck and met the ambulance in Slocomb.

[END]

ⁱ Email is unedited