



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

Daniel P. Boggs
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: 11/16/2022 @ 1030
Person Interviewed- Vincent Grasso – witness/seller of airplane
NTSB Case Number: ERA23FA060

Narrative:

Mr. Grasso was interviewed in person.

Mr. Grasso stated that he purchased the accident airplane two years ago and only had about 3 hours flight time in the airplane. He further stated that the airplane was “very sensitive” on the flight controls. On the morning of the accident, he sold the airplane to the pilot. He said he asked the pilot if he had any tail dragger time and the pilot stated, “had a few in a champ.” He told the pilot that he should taxi the airplane up and down the runway a couple times to get used to it before he departs for his home airport. He heard the pilot taxi a couple times and then he heard the pilot power up to and shortly after he heard the airplane hit the tree but did not see the airplane going down the runway or make contact with the tree.

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Date: 11/16/2022 @ 1000
Person Interviewed- Valerie Privette – witness
NTSB Case Number: ERA23FA060

Narrative:

Mrs. Privette was interviewed in person.

Mrs. Privette said she was standing outside in her yard when she heard the accident airplane taxi down the runway. Then she heard the airplane taxi back up the runway and go to full power. She believed the pilot was going to take off, so she turned around to watch the airplane depart. She noticed the airplane travel a long way down the runway and was not off the runway yet and she thought that was strange. Then she saw the airplane veer hard to left and depart the runway at full throttle traveling very fast. The airplane was heading straight for a tree when she saw the airplane veer hard left again to try and miss the tree, but the airplane slid sideways directly into the tree. She stated the engine was at full throttle the entire time and did not slow down.

Mrs. Privette's house sits directly across from the accident site.

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Date: 11/16/2022 @ 0930
Person Interviewed- Teena Briskley – witness
NTSB Case Number: ERA23FA060

Narrative:

Mrs. Briskley was interviewed in person.

Ms. Briskley lives at the end of runway 17 and was standing outside her hangar watching the accident airplane taxi up and down the runway. She heard the engine go to full throttle the last time the pilot taxied up the runway and started coming down runway 17. She stated the airplane was coming fast and looked like the airplane was getting “squirrely” when all of a sudden, the airplane veered hard left, departed the runway and directly into a tree. She stated the engine was running at full throttle the entire time and did not slow down.

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