



Eric Alleyne
Air Safety investigator
AS-Eastern Region Aviation

Date: July 3, 2023

Subject: ERA23FA280- Summary of Witness Statement

Contact: Michael Kerby, Witness

On the morning of July 2, 2023, while playing golf at Barefoot Golf and Resort, Mr. Kerby witnessed the crash of aircraft N5524F. From the 10th hole tee box on the Dye Course, he saw the plane taking off from Grand Strand Airport and immediately noticed it struggling to gain altitude. The aircraft exhibited buffeting in the tail section and maintained a high angle of attack with only minimal altitude gain. The engine sounded muffled and underpowered, though it did not sputter or emit smoke. Mr. Kerby observed the aircraft make a slow right turn while still flying low and slowly. The aircraft appeared to momentarily stabilize but then stalled, rolled onto its side, and descended rapidly in a right-hand turn. He heard the impact and saw a fireball. He called 911 to report the crash and offered to provide photos and further information if needed.

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