

Joshua Young
Air Safety Investigator
AS-ERA

Date: 7/27/2023

Subject: ERA23FA313, Witness Interview

Contact: Nick Hess, Mechanic, Harford Air Services

Mr. Hess was interviewed by NTSB investigators in person at his place of employment on July 27, 2023. The following is a summary of what was discussed.

- Mr. Hess was the last person to see and speak to the pilot.
- When asked about the pilot's mood he reported that the pilot talked about going to Florida and that he had strength in his handshake.
- He reported that the pilot had come to the airport earlier that morning and complained about overspray on paint on the airplane seats, but that evening Mr. Hess told him he had tried to clean it as best he could and that the pilot thanked him and had realized the overspray was likely from when the airplane was repainted not from the work that had just been done.
- Mr. Hess stated that the weather was bad most of the day but had cleared up that evening.
- When asked if he knew the purpose of the flight, he reported that the pilot wanted to take the airplane for a flight to make sure everything was ok before the flight to Florida the following morning.

- He reported that the day before the accident flight he had filled the airplane's wing fuel tanks to tabs since the fuel had been drained to facilitate a new weight and balance calculation.
- After speaking with the pilot he left for the day and headed home, he did not see the pilot start the airplane, taxi or take-off as he had already left the airport.

Mr. Hess was thanked for his time and help with the investigation.