



RECORD OF INTERVIEW

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National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern Region

Date: 4/19/2023 0930
Person Interviewed- Dave Sims-Witness
NTSB Case Number: ERA23FA321

Narrative:

Mr. Dave Sims was interviewed in person.

Mr. Sims stated that he was standing out by his hangar about 0930, midfield of runway 18. He watched as the pilot taxied by his hangar and to end of runway 18 for his runup and preflight checklist. Mr. Sims watched as the pilot started his takeoff roll. As the airplane went by the hangar, Mr. Sims could no longer see the airplane as the hangar was blocking his view. Mr. Sims heard what he thought was the pilot "abort the takeoff" due to the engine noise reduced, like he pulled the power back to idle. Mr. Sims then went inside his house for a few minutes and decided to drive down the runway and see if the pilot needed any help. Mr. Sims drove down to the end of runway 18 but did not see the pilot and airplane anywhere. Later in the evening, around 1800, he heard from other neighbors that the pilot and airplane were missing. Mr. Sims drove down the runway again to look for the airplane but did not see anything. Around 2000, Mr. Sims decided to grab a flashlight and walk down the runway again and look into the tree line. As he walked down the runway, he saw a reflection of some plexiglass laying in the woods about 50 ft away from the runway. Mr. Sims walked into the woods to the plexiglass and used his flashlight to look up into the tree and spotted the airplane hanging upside down about 50 ft up in the treetops. He used his flashlight to look around the ground and spotted the pilot laying next to a tree. He called for help at that time.

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