



Investigator Name: Leah D. Read
Title: Sr. ASI
Division: ERA

Date: October 6, 2023

Subject: ERA23FA384

Contact: Mr. Kevin Crowley, eyewitness

Mr. Crowley stated that he was working at the time of the accident and was sitting in the driver's side of his truck with the window open on the beach side of the park. The lake was off to his left. Mr. Crowley said he saw the bright landing lights of N6312G pass by him from left to right. The airplane was less than 100 ft above the water and was in a descending right-hand turn. He said the airplane impacted the water at an angle and did not go straight in. Mr. Crowley said it all happened so fast that he did not recall if he heard the airplane's engine or not.

Mr. Crowley, who is a retired firefighter, got out of his truck and ran to the edge of the beach and called 911. He then opened up the park gates so rescue vehicles could enter.

Mr. Crowley said the weather at the time was dark and hazy due to wildfires. The moon was full, but the haze diminished its illumination. It was dark out on the lake. Mr. Crowley said the wind was calm and there was no fog in the area.

End



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Contact: Scott Cowdry, eyewitness

Mr. Cowdry stated that he was enjoying a campfire with some friends on the beach of Lake Shore Park, in Gilford, New Hampshire, when he first observed the airplane. The time was about 7:45 pm. Mr. Cowdry said he was looking out toward the lake and heard the airplane off to his left. The sound of the airplane's engine is what drew his attention to it. The airplane was just above the tree line of Welch Island. He said it was a little "foggy" out, but he could see the airplane's red/green position lights and also its white landing lights. The airplane then suddenly went "full throttle" and "dove down" in a descending right hand (45-degree bank angle) turn. Mr. Cowdry told his friends, "Holy **it, that airplane's going to crash!" He said that no less than two seconds later the airplane impacted the water, and he could hear the impact. Mr. Cowdry reiterated that the airplane's engine was "running fine" but going "full power" at the time the airplane hit the water.

Mr. Cowdry said he called 911, then he and his friends got into a pontoon boat and went out on the lake to see if they could find where the airplane crashed and try to assist. He said, that as they headed out, a wake boat approached them. Mr. Cowdry did not recognize the boat or the occupants onboard. He said that as the boat approached them, it resembled an airplane with the red/white position lights and the bright headlights. A person on the boat yelled out, "Hey did you see that airplane? It almost hit us??!!" Mr. Cowdry then saw the blue lights of marine patrol headed their way, and the wake boat left the area. Mr. Cowdry did not see where the airplane impacted the water or any debris on the water. He and his friends left the area to allow Marine Patrol to work the scene.

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