



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Joshua Young
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 10/4/2022
Subject: ERA23LA003, Passenger Interview Summary
Contact: Larry Lacey

Mr. Lacey was contacted by phone on October 4, 2022, at 1309 EDT. He was asked if he was involved in the powered parachute accident in question, he responded yes. He was asked how he was and if he had any injuries to which he responded that he lost quite a bit of blood from a piece of pine tree, roughly 4 pints, and “felt as though he had been beaten with a baseball bat” sustaining other small cuts and bruises. He was then asked to describe what happened. He stated that the pilot had been to school in Nashville, TN to learn how to fly the powered parachute and that the pilot completed a thorough pre-flight of all the equipment. Then, during take-off, almost immediately as they lifted off the ground, they began to bank left toward the trees by the side of the runway and Mr. Lacey told the pilot they needed to bank right, or they were going to hit the trees. He also stated that about a minute before the accident the pilot stopped responding to him on the intercom. They then impacted the trees beside the runway and fell straight to the ground roughly 30ft by his estimate. When asked if he remembered the date and time of the accident, he responded that it was Saturday the 24th of September between 0820 and 0825 CDT. Mr. Lacey was asked to describe the weather and said the weather was “perfect” noting that the windsock was limp and the skies were clear. When asked where he was sitting, he stated that he was sitting in the rear of the powered parachute with the pilot sitting in the front. He was then asked how the engine sounded, he replied that it sounded good and did not seem to be having any issues from his perspective. He also mentioned that the pilot was still in the hospital being treated for injuries sustained during the accident which included a fractured eye socket, broken left leg, dislocated left ankle and brain bleed.