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Office of Aviation Safety, Eastern Region

**Date:** March 11, 2024

**Subject:** NTSB# ERA24FA136

**Contact:** Richard Mcelwee (HSP Airport Staff)

The individual noted above provided the following information via telephone conversation. The below contents are a summary of what was reported:

- He heard two radio calls. He heard broken parts of two radio calls. There was an airplane announcing their intentions to approach and land on runway 25. He was in the office at the airport.
- The communications were normal. A short time later, heard a muffled "wooooffhhh." He compared it to the sound of impact.
- He went outside and saw smoke and fire on the approach end to runway 25.
- The winds were unusual at the time of the accident, even for their mountain top airport. It was very windy. It was very windy and there is a known down draft that can exist when approaching runway 25 with high wind.
- He observed wind up to 39 knots around the time of the accident.
- The visibility was 10 miles and there as a high overcast. No low clouds. There was no precipitation, no snow flurries at that time at the airport terminal area.
- He heard another airplane in the air after the crash. He asked if something was going on. That airplane notified ATC, he believes.
- The first firefighter showed up around 15 minutes later.
- There were no other people at the airport at the time of the accident.
- He recalled that he got a call from a pilot on Friday morning, preceding the accident day. The pilot said that he was going to come in Sunday, 1230PM. He provided his information. He said he would be bringing in two passengers and then departing after dropping them off. He inquired if they had JET A and that was the extent of the call. He believes this was the accident captain.

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