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Office of Aviation Safety, Eastern Region

Date: May 5, 2024
Subject: NTSB# ERA24FA209
Contact: RYANT WASHINGTON (Eyewitness)

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

RYANT WASHINGTON
434-981-3727

- Mr. Washington was asked to provide a description of what he heard and observed the morning of the accident.
- He heard a "big rumbling" while inside his home. He hears planes "all the time" near his house and thought it was a military plane, or perhaps a military helicopter at first. The sound quickly became so loud that he and his wife ran out of their home because he thought something was going to hit his house.
- Mr. Washington reported that once outside of his home, he observed an airplane that was "really low" and "it was on fire." It looked to be descending and continued in a nose low manor towards terrain and trees and disappeared from his view.
- He described that the "bulk" of the fire was in the "center" of the airplane. He believed the airplane was traveling northwest.
- He described that the airplane was a "ball of fire" and that the smoke was a "dark smoke color."
- He described that the weather conditions were cloudy and misty. There were no thunderstorms that he recalled.
- He described that when he first viewed the airplane, it appeared to him the airplane was already in a descent, almost like a spiral, descending nose down toward terrain and on fire.

- He could not see how many engines the airplane had.
- He was thanked for his time and was informed of the purpose of NTSB investigations and that another investigator may contact him.

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