

To: Memphis Tennessee FSDO, CE-21

Mr. Morgan,

Below you will find my statement in regards to the events that occurred on 1/21/24.

Aircraft: N3857Y, Cessna 210D

We departed KCEY en route to KMKL on a night cross country flight. The PIC, Matt Lutz, was in the left seat under simulated instrument conditions. I was in the right seat, performing safety pilot duties.

At a cruise altitude of 6500', a sudden and extremely violent vibration began. Simultaneously, a sudden deceleration and loss of IAS occurred. Oil began to accumulate on window and smoke entered the cabin.

I took immediate control of aircraft, established best glide and aimed for the closest airport, KPHT.

I declared an emergency with Memphis Center.

I maintained control of aircraft and landed short of the runway at KPHT. As we touched down we struck a fence. We nosed over and came to rest upside down.

Both occupants extricated themselves. No injuries noted.

Contact was made with the proper authorities immediately after the incident.

Robert L. Thompson, 1/23/24
Pilot Certificate #: [REDACTED]