



Damian Galbraith
Aviation Accident Investigator
OAS

Date: October 09, 2024
Subject: ERA25LA007, Witness Statement and Video
Contact: Jeffrey Hunter, Witness

Mr. Jeffrey Hunter reported that he was the pilot of an airplane holding short of the runway at Rutherford County Airport/Marchman Field (FQD), Rutherford, North Carolina. He stated that he heard the accident pilot transmit over the Unicom that he was on short final. Mr. Hunter responded that he would wait for the airplane to land. He reported that there were no apparent issues at that time.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Hunter heard the pilot transmit "mayday, mayday, fire." He looked up and observed the accident airplane about 50 ft above the runway, passing directly in front of his position. He reported that flames were trailing from beneath the wings near the main landing gear area.

According to Mr. Hunter, within seconds of the emergency call, the aircraft appeared to be forced onto the runway. He observed the airplane porpoise and bounce, after which the nose landing gear collapsed. He stated that immediately afterward, the entire aircraft became engulfed in fire.

Mr. Hunter provided a cellphone video of the accident to the Investigator-In-Charge (IIC).

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