



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Adam Gerhardt
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General Aviation Accident Investigation Division, AS-20

Date: 10/01/2015
Person Contacted: Justin Bollum (Airport Operations Manager Catalina Island)
NTSB Accident Number: GAA16CA002

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred via email with the airport operations manager at Catalina airport. The airport manager was an eye witness to the accident and communicated with the accident airplane during the flight.

"At approximately 4:00 pm local N4286Q reported inbound to KAVX from Two Harbors on the 45. A few minutes later the pilot made an un-stabilized approach to runway 22 coming in low and slow to the runway. After using full power to climb up to the runway the aircraft gained airspeed and altitude one clear of the down drafts on short final. Once near midfield the power came out and the airplane looked like it was going to attempt a landing near the second taxiway but elected to go around and the power came back in and the flaps went up. After making another wide lap in the pattern the airplane came in low and slow again. About 20 seconds prior to impact I told the pilot over UNICOM that the winds were 250 at 11 and to use caution for down drafts and turbulence short final. He responded that he was already experiencing them. The closer the aircraft got to the approach end of 22 the higher the pitch angle became and we could hear the engine at full power. The aircraft then appeared to stall and fell from view. At 4:08 we called 911 and alerted the local dispatch that an aircraft was down then alerted conservancy rangers on internal radio. A reserve ranger was first on scene."