



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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General Aviation Accident Investigation Division, AS-20

Date: 3/27/2017
Person Contacted: Phil Bates (Pilot in Command)
NTSB Accident Number: GAA17CA202

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the pilot in command of the accident aircraft:

- The purpose of the flight was to do sightseeing around the mountains.
- The weather was "good."
- The airplane was full of fuel for departure, and the takeoff was at the maximum gross weight allowable.
- The wind was light and variable while enroute.
- The accident occurred about 2 hours into the flight, while sightseeing in the mountain ranges.
- The pilot "felt the downdraft" and started a right turn away from mountain, applied full power, and attempted to climb at Vx. The pilot stated that he did not want to increase the bank angle or the airplane would have stalled and/or spun.
- The pilot estimated that the airplane altitude during the turn from valley toward the mountain side was about 9000-9500 ft. mean sea level (MSL). The airplane impacted the mountain side about 8,300 ft. feet MSL.
- There were a total of two persons onboard, both sustained minor injuries.