

Plagens Howard

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 09, 2014 2:27 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Piper Cub accident

Paul King and Mark Mitchell, FAA: This my recollection of what happened, Saturday morning, June 7th 2014, approximately 9 a.m. We all met with Mr. Berg at his Cub airplane and he gave us instructions on how to get to the area where we were going to cut firewood. He had a path cut for us as to avoid any chance of the grass possibly catching fire, he was very conscientious about that. After our instructions, he headed back to the hangar to wait for Mr. Warren. They were going to go to an air show at Paso Airport. We observed the plane taxi to the north end of the runway and make the turn for the take-off. After a "mag" check, they were off, heading south down the runway. After lifting off they started to head to the right. As for altitude, from my vantage point, I could not see the aircraft due to a hill and trees. After a few more seconds I could see the top of the wing and it was in a vertical position. At that time, I knew it could not fly anymore, the plane went down behind the hill and trees. I got in my truck and headed to the crash site hoping I could help in some way. I observed the occupants and no one responding to my voice. I heard some groans and noticed a hand moving (Mr. Bergs) and held it, and told him that help was on the way. I assured him that I was going to get him out and to "hang on". I knew I had to get to the gate soon to let the emergency vehicles in, so that's where I headed. It took about 15 minutes or so to get there and let them in. I led them to the accident site. Upon arrival, I was informed by Capt. Roger Columbo, PR Fire who was helping us cut wood, that they had both expired. Hope this helps with your investigation, that is all I can recall. As far I could observe, I could not tell who was flying as they both have a stick. It looked like Mr. Warren was in the back. Any more question, feel free to call me any time. Chuck Lundquist, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

On 06/07/2014, on or around 10 a.m. I was cutting firewood on Bob's ranch. Bob was taxiing down his runway. All of us stopped cutting to watch Bob take off. Bob's plane lifted off and was going approximately 45 miles per an hour when he got airborne, banked to the right, and then the plane made a 90 degree angle turn. It almost looked as though it stopped in midair and went straight down. Mike and I took off running towards the down plane and lost sight for about 5 – 10 seconds. We saw a big dust cloud. When we got to the airplane, we got inside and pulled off all of the glass and parts off of Bob and John. We checked for vitals. Bob was alive for approximately 2 minutes and John passed away approximately 8 minutes after. The Sheriff's Department showed up and about 5 minutes later the CDF, ambulance and CHP chopper. At this time, Mike and I left to pick up the firewood and the Sheriff's Department told us not to leave until they got our names.

-Jerry Weeks