



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Elliott Simpson
Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: March 21, 2016
NTSB Accident Number: WPR16FA086

Narrative:

The group were part of pumping crew, all working on 120th street, about 150 ft northwest of the windsock on the north side of the airport.

Paris Heard (A) ([REDACTED])

Positioned on the north pavement, had full view of the runway and observed the accident trike begin the takeoff roll, and then takeoff. Shortly after breaking ground it veered to the right with an accompanying increase in engine tone. The trike leveled off, and a few seconds later began turning to the right again, this time progressing into a more aggressive bank, such that he could now see the full upper side of the wing. It began to descend in a 60 degrees nose down attitude and struck the fence, coming to rest at the base of a tree, about 30 ft west of his location.

After impact the trike caught fire and he ran over to remove the pilot, whose legs were on fire and tangled in a cable (parachute rocket motor and cable).

The engine appeared to be operating "at full power" throughout the diversion, and he did not see it emitting any smoke or vapors at any time prior to the impact.

Byron Mages (B) ([REDACTED])

Positioned west of the crew's pumping truck, did not see the takeoff, but looked up after hearing an engine sound, and ran as the trike appeared to be flying towards him in a steep right back. Trike hit the fence, and erupted into flames as it hit the ground.

Jesse Duarte (C) ([REDACTED])

Positioned on the street, south of the pumping truck. Did not observe the takeoff, but looked up and could see the trike in a "hard" right bank just before it hit the fence. The engine was operating at, "full throttle" for the entire time he saw the trike.

