

I David Hughes witnessed the plane crash at Banning airport on 6/2/2017. I believe it was around 1:00 pm. My wife and I had just entered the flight office and as I always do I checked the awos monitor to get the wind speed and direction which was out of the east at 17 kts with peak gust around 23 kts. I was talking to Mike who runs the office when I noticed an aircraft on low approach to Runway 26 and as I recall he did not contact Banning Unicom. As I was talking to Mike I could see out the office window towards mid field and saw that the aircraft had done a touch and go. I saw that the plane had climbed to approximately 100 feet when it began to descend and then attempted to climb but only attained a nose high attitude. At this time I told everyone in the office that this plane is in trouble. At this time my wife and I ran out the office door to to watch the aircraft. The aircraft then settled at about 40 feet and continued to fly with a nose high attitude to the west while not gaining altitude. As the aircraft crossed the end of Runway 26 it began a slight turn to the northwest which put it on cross wind to 26 as it turned to cross wind it began to lose more altitude. As it flew to the northwest I noticed the wings were starting to wobble and as the aircraft approached the railroad tracks the aircraft pitched up to avoid the east bound train when the right wing stalled and the aircraft impacted the trees at a 90 degree bank right wing first which spun it clockwise 180 degrees, then penetrated the trees backwards impacting the ground left wing first. I can't say if the aircraft was developing full power as there was a train going by which drowned out most of the sound. It appeared to me that the plane having landed down wind was caught in wind shear as the gusting wind caught up to the aircrafts minimum flying speed, which caused the pilot to raise the nose to stop the descent. It appeared to me that the plane was caught in a reverse pitch power curve situation. The aircraft continued trying to gain altitude having more than enough Runway and over run to abort but seemed to keep trying to climb until it finally crashed.

