

N470LM RV-8 Witness Statement

Richard Dilbeck, FAA Inspector

Please find my account of what I saw and heard in regards to the plane crash in Bangor. Please let me know if this is satisfactory as I tried to keep to the main points of what I witnessed and remembered.

At approximately 5:25pm on Thursday February 23rd I was driving up my driveway on Turtle Ranch Road to go feed our horses when I noticed a small plane flying extremely low approximately 50-60 feet maybe that flew over my in-laws 2 story home and was decreasing in altitude quickly.

I had my car windows down and heard the engine for a brief moment but while driving towards the direction the plane was heading it sounded as if the engine had gone silent before I heard a hard hollow boom at which point I suspected the plane crashed.

Once I got to the end of the driveway and saw the plane in the field, I called 911 and started looking for a way to get to the plane which took me about 5 minutes, once I got to the plane and found both the pilot and passenger stuck in the plane due to the canopy being jammed but they were both awake, responsive but injured. I started checking around the plane to make sure nothing was smoking I worked with the pilot to try and get the hatch unjammed so they could get out. I started smelling a funny chemical odor so I walked around to the prop and noticed some smoke coming out but it was very minimal. The pilot and I kept working on the hatch and finally got it to release and open at which time both the pilot and passenger were able to get out.

Regards

Tammy G. Cameron