



RECORDS OF CONVERSATIONS

Michael Huhn
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: November 21, 2017
Person Contacted: Mr. Mark Dake & Mr. Andy Cortez
NTSB Accident Number: WPR18FA035

Narrative:

The following are synopses of the information provided in two separate face to face conversations:

Mr. Mark Dake

- Mr. Dake was driving his car westbound on Hwy 58, with his son and wife in the car.
- They had just passed under the bridge over Hwy 58 that is just east of the airport
- He noticed the airplane taking off towards the west/northwest
- He saw it climb steeply, then turn to the left and descend very steeply to the ground
- The hand motions he used to demonstrate the airplane dynamics were similar to a hammerhead stall/reversal
- Mr. Dake is not a pilot and did not use any of those terms
- It was quite dark; mostly he could only see the lights of the airplane, not the airplane itself
- When the airplane struck the ground, he saw a large dark "plume"- he didn't know if it was smoke or dirt or something else
- Someone in the car telephoned 911 to report the accident
- Both his son and wife also saw the impact
- He exited the hwy just west of the airport, and returned to a section of the road adjacent to where they thought they saw the airplane strike the ground
- The area was on the north side of Hwy 58
- They used their phone lights to partially search the field, in an effort to possibly render assistance to the pilot/people on board
- It was too dark to see anything, and other people began showing up; they eventually abandoned their search and returned to the car
- Mr. Dake and his son (about 10-15 YO) came by the day after the accident to meet with the investigators and provide the above information
- Mr. Dake is not a pilot

Mr. Andy Cortez

- Mr. Cortez and his wife were in the front of their house
- Their house is on the corner of Green and J streets, about ¼ mile south the runway at TSP
- He is a pilot, so he looked up when he heard the airplane take off
- He saw it climbing east to west, consistent with a takeoff on TSP runway 29
- He saw the airplane make a right turn, which is unusual for that runway
 - NOTE: Normal traffic pattern is left hand, and brings the airplanes closer to his home; the accident airplane turned right and proceeded away from his home
- He then turned back to his task in his front yard
- He and his wife then heard the airplane strike the ground
- He did not hear the engine "rev up"
- He called 911 after they heard the impact