

Witness statement

Don Damann

Los Angeles County Fire, Sr. Fire Fighting Construction Equipment Operator.

On Sept. 3, 2018, I witnessed a plane crash at the LA County Pacoima Facility at approximately 1700 hours. I had my family visiting me at the station for Labor Day and we were just getting ready to take a family picture by the dozer transport that was parked between the heavy equipment dorm and the site of the accident. We were standing on the west side of the dozer transport which put us between the accident site and the dozer transport. As we were almost ready to line everyone up to take the picture I heard the sound of a small plane taking off from Whiteman Airport and I noticed that the engine sounded like it was having some kind of mechanical issue. It sounded like it was sputtering. I hear them taking off every day that I work at the Pacoima facility and this time something sounded wrong. Now that the sound had gotten my attention, I looked up to see what was going on. As soon as I made eye contact with the plane it was starting to make a left banking turn when all of a sudden it was like the engine stopped running and the plane started rolling in a downward spiral towards the ground where the front of the plane struck the roof of the gym building and then crashed to the ground where it landed upside down.

During the rescue operation to extricate the two passengers of the plane I did not see or smell any aviation fuel. I only noticed a small area of oil that had leaked from the engine on to the ground.

Witness statement

Jordan Simpson

Los Angeles County Fire, Transportation Truck Driver

On Sept. 3rd, 2018, I was a witness to a plane crash at the Los Angeles County Fire Department facility at [REDACTED]. Pacoima Ca 91331. What I saw was a small plane heading straight towards me after Don Damann yelled watch out and I turned around and saw a small single engine plane headed straight towards me at a very low altitude that had just taken off from Whiteman Airport. At the time I had turned around I could not tell if the plane's engine was running but what I noticed was that the aircraft was losing altitude at a high rate and was headed straight towards us. While watching this aircraft coming at us I noticed that the airplane wings were dipping side to side and after about the third time of the wing tips dipping it rolled 180 degrees and nosed down into the front overhang of the steel garage we use for a gym. After striking the overhang it nosed straight down into the ground and landed upside down.

Once the aircraft came to a stop on the ground upside down I ran over to the semi-truck and called in the accident to our dispatcher. Once I finished that I turned around and saw that there was a fire in the engine compartment. Once I saw the fire I grabbed a 10lb fire extinguisher out of the semi and ran over and proceeded to extinguish the fire after three tries. While putting out the fire I noticed that it was an engine oil fire and not aviation fueled fire. Once I got the flames under control another driver that got there before me pulled the left door of the aircraft open and this is when we noticed that there were 2 occupants inside the aircraft. Once we noticed this we went in to rescue mode. While performing these operations I remember looking to see and smell if there was a fuel leak and see if I needed to worry about another fire. After I was unable to smell or see a fuel leak I was able to focus on the extraction of the minor hanging in the aircraft.

Witness Statement

Michael Roldan

Los Angeles County Fire, Heavy equipment Unit

Transportation truck Driver

At approximately 1700 hours on the afternoon on September 3, 2018 myself and other co-workers were setting ourselves up

For a group photo we were all facing in a west direction when

I noticed a small plane at about 300 feet just above Whiteman

Airport runway heading south direction and (no engine sound)

When it banked to the left into a spiral turn heading nose down

And it hit our work out barn roof top edge overhang then slammed down to the concrete ground upside down.

I also noticed there was no smell of aviation fuel or Leakage on the ground.