



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Joshua D. Cawthra
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: March 23, 2018
NTSB Accident Number: WPR18LA105

Narrative:

On 3/10/18 at 1750 PST, I received a call from Seattle ROC about the airplane that impacted terrain near Montague, California with three souls on board: pilot, student pilot (also the owner of the airplane) and passenger who were not injured. During that time, I interviewed the pilot who said he was doing touch and go's at the airport. He said he "took off and something wasn't right. The airplane was not acting right". After asking him to try to explain what he meant by that, if the engine lost power (he answered "NO"), I asked him if the airplane was or was not producing lift. He said it was not producing lift. I couldn't get more info from him besides that there must be a mechanical reason. The pilot was stressed out and I told him to take the night off, calm down, gather his thoughts and that I will be calling him next week.

I attempted to call the pilot several times the following week, he did not return any of my calls after I left messages. Sacramento FSDO never went to the site; The FAA inspector called me the following Wednesday, said he tried to talk to the owner/student but he told him he won't be saying anything without his lawyer.

I tried calling the owner myself and he said he will not talk to me without his lawyer. He did not provide lawyer's info.

On March 16th, I emailed my boss, Dennis Hogenson, and explained him the situation and that I cannot get in touch with neither the owner nor the pilot. Dennis tried calling them and it went straight to voicemail. At that time, with the approval of my boss, I stopped trying to contact either of them.

The airplane was recovered to a secure location and subsequent engine and airframe exam were conducted on 3/22/18.