



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Albert Nixon
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: January 26, 2020
Person Contacted: Nicholas Chesterman (Pilot rated passenger flying in airplane)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR20FA077

Narrative:

During a conversation with Nicholas Chesterman, pilot rated passenger, who was seated in the front right seat of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He was a private pilot.
- It was his first time in the plane.
- He said the oil pressure gauge was initially but went to normal.
- Departed and turned left to the north.
- Did a 180° turn.
- Flew back towards the airport.
- Oil pressure gauge went down.
- They lost the engine with no where to put it down.
- They hit trees.
- He woke up with his right leg pinned and fuel everywhere.



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Date: January 26, 2020
Person Contacted: Joshua Rodriguez (Witness)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR20FA077

Narrative:

During a conversation with Joshua Rodriguez, witness of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He was located on Maple Court off Joeger Road near Bell Road.
- He observed an airplane seemed to be coming from the airport and circled overhead (about over Bell Road) and then turned back to the airport.
- The direction back towards the airport was uphill that the airplane was heading towards.
- After completing the turn back towards the airport, the engine was sputtering and backfiring.
- The engine sounds lasted about 10-15 seconds.
- Got progressively louder – bangs louder.
- He did not notice any smoke coming from the airplane.
- He stated that he heard the engine shutoff and sound quiet.
- After hearing the engine go quiet, the engine never powered back up or restarted.
- He has heard other airplanes in the past have their engine power reduced while practicing but they always powered back up.
- The airplane leveled out and flew towards a tree line where he lost sight.
- The airplane was heading in the direction of Dry Creek Road.
- When he saw the morning news shortly thereafter, he was sure he had observed the accident airplane because of the time and location, he observed it.
- He observed several other airplanes fly in the vicinity of the where he last observed the airplane.



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Date: January 26, 2020
Person Contacted: Gary Barker (Witness)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR20FA077

Narrative:

During a conversation with Gary Barker, witness of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He was a retired Fire Chief from a local city and had previously worked with North American Rockwell and NASA.
- He has worked on engines his whole life.
- He was at home when he heard the airplane's engine in distress.
- He described the engine sounds as a rough running engine with a backfire, then the rpm would pick up, and then backfire again.
- He ran outside with his phone and observed the rear of the airplane.
- The airplane's engine quit while overhead his home.
- He thought that maybe there was water in the fuel.
- He called 911 because he did not think the airplane would make the airport.
- The airplane was going in the direction of where the crash site was.



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Date: January 29, 2020
Person Contacted: Daniel Walberg (Witness)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR20FA077

Narrative:

During a conversation with Daniel Walberg, witness of the accident airplane, the following is a summary of what he stated:

- He was at home and in front of garage a little before 10:00.
- He heard the airplane's engine running normal, over about a 20-30 second period.
- Then he heard the engine backfiring 4-5 times, over about a 20-30 second period.
- He then heard the engine go quiet.
- He commented to his wife, that they may hear about an airplane crash.