



INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Elliott Simpson
Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Interview Date: July 7, 2020
Person Contacted: [REDACTED] Hansen [REDACTED]
NTSB Accident Number: WPR20LA212

Narrative:

Mr. Hansen is 13 years of age, and his mother was present during the interview.

During a telephone conversation, Mr. Hansen stated the following:

- He is a member of the Civil Air Patrol, a flying enthusiast, with plans to ultimately become a pilot.
- He was inside his house about 1545 July 7, 2020, located at [REDACTED] South Lake Tahoe, when he heard an airplane make an unusual sound.
- His house is close to KTVL airport, and he is very aware of aircraft flying overhead, and familiar with their sounds.
- The unusual nature of the sound caught his attention such that he went outside to see if he could see it.
- He then observed a high wing Cessna about 3 blocks north flying south and away from the direction of the airport at about 200 ft agl.
- The engine made a sputtering sound, and periodically would make a sound consistent with losing and then gaining power, although the propeller appeared to still be rotating. He could see what appeared to be oil on the spinner and windshield.
- The left wing tip then struck a tree in the wooded lot next to [REDACTED], and the airplane aggressively yawed.
- The airplane continued to fly low and of into the distance south and out of his view, while continuing to make a sputtering noise.
- He went over to the tree that the airplane struck but could not see any debris, although the top of the tree appeared damaged.

- He told family members what he just witnessed, and was concerned the airplane had crashed, but he had trouble convincing them. About 30 minutes later he got word of an airplane crash in the neighborhood.