

Joshua Cawthra
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Aviation - Western Pacific Region

Date: June 22, 2022

Subject: WPR22FA216

Contact: Lane Johnson - Girlfriend of the Pilot

During a telephone conversation, Ms. Johnson said that the pilot flew to Mojave from Shafter for breakfast, along with possibly 5 other airplanes. She recalled that the pilot texted her at 1010 and said he was flying to Porterville and later arrived there about 1100. Her family met the pilot at the airport, where he showed her brothers the airplane and spent time explaining everything to them. She stated that they went to a park for a while, ate lunch, hung out a bit, and the pilot intended on going to go back to Shafter, and then to San Luis Obispo for a photo shoot. About 230 pm, she took him to the airport. He asked if she wanted to go, however, she declined. Ms. Johnson stated that she dropped him off, said "fly safe," to which he replied always.

Ms. Johnson went back to her parents' house, and when she arrived home, she saw the pilot flying over the house. Her brother and sister-in-law were outside, about 5 minutes later, and heard another airplane flying, to which they joked that it could have been the pilot coming back. Ms. Johnson said that her sister-in-law heard a loud pop, then silent. She said that something didn't sit right with her, and walked around to the side of the house, where she saw big black plume of smoke, and thought right away, it was a plane crash. Ms. Johnson stated that she drove to the area of the smoke, texting and calling the pilot, with no response before she called the pilot's friend, asking him to track him.

Ms. Johnson said that the pilot was in a great mood, happy, excited to go fly. She recalled that the pilot had a off road motorcycle accident about 3 or 4 weekends prior (Memorial Day weekend), didn't go to the doctor, but he had a bad headache, and the whole left side of his body was sore. However, since then, the pilot told her that he was feeling a lot better, normal, with nothing lingering. END