



Joshua Cawthra
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety - Western Pacific Region

Date: July 23, 2022

Subject: WPR22FA256 - Witness Statements

Below are statements received from various witnesses located nearby the accident site.

--

Tom Carr - [REDACTED]
ROC - July 18, 2022

Mr. Carr reported that he was near his garage when he heard the sound of an airplane. He looked up and saw the airplane descending and appeared to "diving down more" as it continued traveling near his position. Mr. Carr said that the noise of the airplane was very loud as if the engine was running at full power. Mr. Carr did not know it had two engines, and said that he was unable to discern if both engines were operating at the time or not.

Statement provided from the FAA - Tom Carr called me at 0838 on 07/20/2022 and stated that he didn't remember if he told us or not, but his memory of what he saw on the day of the accident had gotten a little more clear. He stated that he saw the aircraft's right wing rise abruptly, then the aircraft nosed down and corkscrewed out of view and to the ground. The "corkscrew" he felt was in a counter-clockwise direction.

Jeff Doolittle [REDACTED]

ROC - July 19, 2022

Mr. Doolittle stated that he was riding his motorcycle and came upon the scene after the fact. He did not witness any of the accident sequence.

Theodore Johnson-Mecimer - [REDACTED]
ROC - June 19, 2022

Mr. Johnson-Mecimer stated that he was driving with 3 friends heading up lefthand canyon and they were east of mile marker 11 when they heard the sound of an airplane crashing, loud violent sound, across the creek. His friend saw the explosion, told him to keep driving, looked through his side view mirror, slowly put two and two together. Stopped at a pull off, another driver and a motorcyclist, confirmed that a plane had crashed. They walked back along the highway they wanted to see if there was anything they could do. When directly across from where the crash happened, they crossed the creek, went up the hill and yelled to see if anyone needed help. They heard small explosions when walking up to the wreckage and tried to yell if anyone needed help for 5 to 6 minutes. He mentioned that they did not see the airplane in flight.

Caroline Ashley - [REDACTED]
ROC - 7/19/22

During a telephone conversation, Ms. Ashley reported that she was home and heard loud sound from inside and went out to her deck. She said that she saw an airplane that was flying over "super low" which caught her eye and noticed that the engines were really loud. Ms. Ashley further stated that the airplane "spiraled / went out of control," as if the pilot had lost control. Ms. Ashley stated that she didn't see the crash, but did see the smoke after the impact and called 911. Ms. Ashley added that the airplane was "awkward spiraling, right wing was going down, left wing was going up" and that the airplane regularly flew over her home and that it is "super loud."

Statement Provided by the FAA -

Caroline Ashley, [REDACTED]
In-person interview conducted on 07/20/22 at 1200 MDT

Ms. Ashley stated she often hears aircraft in the area; however, this time "the engine noise was not the normal purr" that she usually hears. This time the engine "made a clickity-clackity-type of sound, like it was not running smooth." When she heard the

unusual sounds, that's when she looked up to observe the aircraft. Ms. Ashley describe the aircraft's flight path concurrent with previous reports and verified ADS-B Data.

Ms. Ashley stated that when she saw the right wing lift up (greater than a 45 degree bank), then quickly lower. The left wing then lifted and the aircraft nosed down and corkscrew in a clockwise direction below the tree line. When the left wing started to lift, that is when Ms. Ashley stated the engines stopped making noise. It was at this point Ms. Ashley lost visual on the aircraft and only saw the smoke from the ensuing impact.

Due to the terrain, loss of visual and engine noise by any resident in that area should be expected. Ms. Ashley also stated that when the left wing lifted and the engine noise stopped, she "couldn't believe what I was seeing, and maybe that's why I didn't hear anything? It was so surreal." Despite the circumstances, she was adamant and positive the engine(s) sounded like they were struggling, which prompted her to look at the aircraft in the first place.

Ms. Ashley stated she spoke with other folks she knows - Mark & Cathy Frey - and they witnessed the crash as well. She was not comfortable providing me with their contact information but said she would forward mine to them and to contact me if they felt comfortable.

Lucy Stark - [REDACTED]
ROC - July 19, 2022

Ms. Stark reported that she was located on Bear Peak, which was just south of the Flat Irons, and south of Left Hand Canyon. She reported that she was just above a saddle between Bear Peak and the mountain to the north, in an open face, when they saw an airplane that was really loud. They noted how low the airplane was and were able to see the people inside. They watched the airplane cross the saddle, behind the mountain, and turn to the north, while it was really low. Ms. Stark stated that the engines sounded fine.