

Kristyn Blocher
Air Safety Investigator
AS-WPR

Date: 9/19/24

Subject: WPR24FA285, interview

Contact: D. Williams, spouse, [REDACTED]

The following is a summary of an in person conversation the IIC had with Mrs. Williams, in the Western Pacific Region Headquarters office, in Federal Way, Washington.

Mrs. Williams came to the office to pick up some personal electronic devices and other identification that had been secured from the accident site, and speak to the IIC regarding some specific memories she had as a passenger on N61323, and thoughts on the accident that occurred on 8/24/24.

She recalled that in two instances (6-9 mo and 2 years prior) while she was a passenger in the accident airplane, the landing gear handle had been placed in the UP position and the landing gear indicator lights reflected that the gear had retracted. However, upon visually checking the gear position, the gear was still in the down/extended position and there had not been an audio alert.

She recalled that the night before the accident flight, the accident pilot had arrived home late, from out of town. The following morning, he left early, to retrieve the airplane from Crest Airpark and he had planned to bring the airplane back to Lake Meridian so it could be positioned as a wedding and photo back drop.

She theorized that the accident pilot had taken off from Crest and chosen to leave the landing gear down, to allow mud and water to clear from the gear before retracting. She believed that he intended to leave the gear down temporarily and then retract it prior to landing at Lake Meridian, but possibly became distracted and simply forgot.

Mrs. Williams was unsure where to locate the pilot's logbooks or the airplane's maintenance logbooks, for the investigation's documentation.