

On April 29, 2025 at 1536 I observed a large column of black smoke in my response area of Bowman in Cottonwood, CA. I am the Captain on E2573 of Cal Fire Tehama Glenn Unit. We responded toward the black smoke as we received a dispatch from our Emergency Command Center in Red Bluff, CA for a report of an aircraft down at [REDACTED]. We arrived on scene at 1545 and I observed a small plane down in a field to the south of the residence. I gave a Report on conditions as a small plane down fully involved with approx. ¼ acre of grass on fire and 1 Patient with major burn injuries and to start a medical helicopter. My fireman began to extinguish the vegetation fire to make access to extinguish the plane. I went to the Patient that was laying approx. 100' from the plane. I observed a man that had approx. 3rd degree burns over 90% of his body. The patient was alert and oriented and was able to tell me that he self extricated from the crash and someone else was still in the plane. I rendered care to the burn patient and directed my fireman to locate the other person in the plane. Upon extinguishing the plane my fireman was able to confirm there was an unidentifiable body in the plane that had been consumed by the fire. I asked the burn patient if he knew what happened and he said the man who was in the plane was flying at the time of the accident and had over shot the runway they were attempting to land on. He said the pilot powered up and then lost control of the plane and they went down. Paramedics showed up and took over patient care and he was flown to UC Davis Burn Unit in Sacramento CA. The scene was roped off by Tehama County Sherrifs Office and we were released at 1723.



Andrew P Calvert

Fire Captain

Cal Fire TGU Bowman

Eric M. Gutierrez
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: April 30, 2025

Subject: WPR25FA145, Memorandum for Record

Contact: Stephanie Cooper, Witness

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mrs. Stephanie Cooper in a telephone conversation.

Mrs. Cooper resides on the south-west end of the Flying N Ranch Airport, Cottonwood, California. From the residence, you can see the approach end of the runway. On the day of the accident, Mrs. Cooper was on the front porch chatting on the phone and she briefly observed the accident airplane overfly her residence. She was able to hear the airplane overfly her residence, land and then crash. During the accident sequence, did not see or hear any anomalies with the airplane or engine.

Her son was also outside and screamed, Jeff's (Humbert) plane just crashed. Mrs. Cooper ran around the corner of her residence and saw the airplane crash site. Smoke and fire were observed coming from the airplane.

She then called 911 and started reporting the airplane accident. While on the phone with the 911 dispatcher, she saw one of Mr. Humbert's employees and told him that Jeff's airplane had just crashed. Due to limited cell phone services, she completed the notification to the 911 dispatcher and then proceeded to the airplane accident site to assist.

Once at the accident location, she observed the first responders treating Mr. Humbert plane. The first responders were asking questions about people on board the airplane and who was flying the airplane. She heard Mr. Humbert say he was not flying the airplane and that the pilot was still on board the airplane. Mr. Humbert was then transported to the hospital.

Eric M. Gutierrez
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: April 30, 2025

Subject: WPR25FA145, Memorandum for Record

Contact: John Mintz, Witness

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. John Mintz in a telephone conversation.

Mr. Mintz is an employee of Mr. Jeffery M. Humbert and has been employed by Mr. Humbert for the past 4 years. On the day of the accident flight, Mr. Mintz stayed late to work on a personal project at the residence of Mr. Humbert, Flying N Ranch Airport, Cottonwood, California. As he was finishing up for the day, he heard an airplane over fly the airport twice and believed it was Mr. Humbert returning.

As he was walking out of the shop to his vehicle, he observed a neighbor on the phone, and told him Jeff had just crashed and pointed to the accident site. Due to the poor cell phone service, the neighbor needed to stay at her location to keep the connection with the 911 operator.

He then proceeded to the airplane accident site on foot and noticed that the gate and a fence post were downed and damaged. The fence post had a black mark on the top of the fence post. As he approached the accident site, he noted that the airplane was on fire.

When he arrived at the accident site, Mr. Humbert was exiting the burn area of the accident site. He noticed that Mr. Humberts cloths were on fire and then proceed help extinguish Mr. Humbert's clothes and exit the fenced area. Once out of the burn area, Mr. Humbert laid down and waited for the arrival of first responders.

Mr. Humbert was conscious, while first responders were treating his injuries. He heard first responders ask Mr. Humbert if he was the only occupant of the airplane,

Mr. Humbert stated that another person was in the airplane. The first responders then confirmed a second occupant in the airplane. Mr. Humbert was then transported to the hospital.

Eric M. Gutierrez
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: April 30, 2025

Subject: WPR25FA145, Memorandum for Record

Contact: Earl R. Allen, Witness

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Allen in a telephone conversation.

Mr. Earl R. Allen lives on Lake California Air Park (68CA), Cottonwood, California and had flown down to Red Bluff Municipal Airport (RBL), Red Bluff, California to pick up some parts. While at RBL, he saw Mr. Delmar Schulte and Mr. Jeffery Humbert, accident airplane flight crew, on the airport ramp and approached them for general conversation. He observed Mr. Schulte in the front seat. Mr. Schulte stated that he was a flight instructor and was teaching Mr. Humbert how to become a flight instructor. According to the flight crew of the accident airplane, Mr. Schulte was acting as a student pilot and Mr. Humbert was acting as a flight instructor in preparation for Mr. Humbert's flight instructor check ride.

Eric M. Gutierrez
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: June 25, 2025

Subject: WPR25FA145, Memorandum for Record

Contact: Mark Legare, Witness

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Legare in a telephone conversation.

The day prior to the accident flight, both Mr. Jeff Humbert and Mr. Delmar Schulte, accident airplane flight crew, visited Mr. Legare at his hanger at the Redding Regional Airport (RDD), Redding, California. They are all friends, and they came by to visit and have general conversation. During their conversation, the flight crew mentioned that due to the accident airplanes' small engine, the airplane was not a great performer.

During a prior visit, Mr. Legare asked Mr. Schulte, why was it taking so long for Mr. Humbert to obtain his flight instructor certificate. Mr. Schulte stated that he (Mr. Humbert) still needed additional training on the flight maneuvers.