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Date: 3/20/2026

Subject: WPR26LA123- Record of conversation with the pilot.

Contact: [REDACTED], Pilot/Part-owner of N104DG

I spoke with the pilot of N104DG about the circumstances leading up to the accident on 3/9/2026.

The pilot stated that he was on a recreational flight with a friend after work.

They departed from Saint George Regional Airport (SGU) in Utah and flew south into Arizona. The winds on departure were 10kts from 260 degrees.

They were doing "normal flying," exploring the area. Described as lower-level sightseeing flying. The pilot reported no issues with the airplane.

They made a left turn while looking for a dirt road or area to land. During the left turn, they felt a down draft, described as "downward pressure" on the airplane. The pilot felt he was losing control of the airplane.

He then leveled the wings and applied full power. However, the wind continued to push the airplane down. Then it impacted the terrain and bounced twice. The airplane spun about 180degrees before coming to rest on the hillside.

The passenger was able to exit the aircraft on his own. But the pilot was stuck, the pedal impeded his feet, and the impact damaged the fuselage.

The passenger called 911, and law enforcement and life flight helicopters arrived about 30 minutes later. They were able to help remove the pilot from the airplane.

The pilot stated that he and a friend co-own the airplane. And that he has about 200 hours in Kittfox airplanes. With no other experience in tail wheel/bush plane type aircraft.

The pilot does not remember the altitude at which they experienced the downdraft. However, they were in the process of descending to look for a suitable landing site.