



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Adam Gerhardt
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region, Office of Aviation Safety (ERA)
National Transportation Safety Board

Date: August 16, 2019
Person(s): Dale and Amy Earnhardt (Passengers)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA19FA248

Narrative:

Mr. and Mrs. Earnhardt were interviewed via conference call by the NTSB investigative team at the Elizabethton Municipal Airport (0A9), Elizabethton, Tennessee on August 16, 2019. The Federal Aviation Administration Coordinator and Textron Aviation Party Coordinator were also present for the interview. The following is a summary of what they reported:

- They reported that the purpose of the flight was to drop off Mr. Earnhardt at the 0A9 airport, and then have the airplane continue on to San Antonio, Texas with Mrs. Earnhardt and their daughter.
- They reported that their boarding experience was routine, they enjoyed the takeoff, and ate some food while enroute.
- They reported that the descent and approach to land seemed typical.
- Mr. Earnhardt reported that he could see the cockpit while in flight and nothing seemed unusual.
- He further reported that during the first landing touchdown, the airplane came back up into the air. This landing seemed different. He reported that he looked into the cockpit and it seemed like the flight crew were “making adjustments.”
- He reported that during the second touchdown it felt as if the right main landing gear collapsed, and the airplane’s right wing was dragging. The airplane then started to turn right and it felt like the airplane had left the runway. The airplane bounced around and then it came to a hard stop.
- Mr. Earnhardt reported that he attempted to open the emergency over the wing exit door and that one of his pilots had come back to help him. He stated that he “wasn’t familiar with what to do” but he “had an idea.” He and Mr. Pope could not get the emergency door to open. He stated he was struggling with the rear hatch. Mr. Melton also attempted to open the door and he had the same struggle.



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

- As they were attempting to get the rear exit door open, heavy smoke was coming from the lavatory. Mr. Earnhardt reported that he told Mr. Melton to try the main cabin door. At this time fire was now visible in the lavatory.
- They reported that Mr. Melton kicked open the main cabin door wide enough so that he could exit. Mr. Earnhardt then handed his daughter, who was in his arms, to the pilot, and then they each squeezed out the opening. He believed the opening was about the size of a conventional oven.
- When they exited, they observed fire on the wings and tail section.
- They believe that first responders arrived very quickly. It was a quick response.
- They reported that Mr. Earnhardt was seated in the forward-facing left club seat and he was holding his daughter in his arms for the flight. Mrs. Earnhardt was seated in the right forward-facing club seat.
- Mr. Earnhardt again summarized, that he recalled two touchdowns, and during the second touchdown, the airplane tilted down to the right. He stated the first touchdown was hard, and the second touchdown was very hard.