



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Date: December 2, 2019
Person Contacted: Arnold Orvin Hopland (Pilot in Rear Seat)
NTSB Accident Number: ERA20LA045

Narrative:

The individual above was contacted via telephone. The below contents are a summary of what he reported:

- The accident flight departed about 9:15AM EST, from Waycross Airport (KAYS) and had an intermediate stop planned for Sandersville, GA (KOKZ) airport. The final destination for the accident day was Asheville, NC.
- The accident occurred about 10:00AM.
- He reported that he was receiving flight instruction from the flight instructor onboard, who was his son.
- The airplane was enroute cruise, about 65% power, 3,500 ft mean sea level, heading about 340°, and all engine gauges were normal; there were “no issues whatsoever.” And then suddenly, there was a “severe vibration” and the engine “locked up.”
- He could see one prop blade stopped in the wind.
- There was no indication of anything abnormal with the engine prior to the sudden stoppage.
- He had the flight controls and was flying the airplane when the vibration started, and then the flight instructor took over immediately.
- Once the flight instructor took the flight controls, he turned the airplane left toward a field, which made for an easterly approach to a long field. When the landing gear was selected down on final approach for the field, there was a rapid loss of airspeed and a rapid increase in descent rate. The airplane nosed over almost immediately after the touchdown and skidded to a stop upside down.
- The canopy was closed for the flight.
- The fuel tanks were about half full, with about 9 gallons. During preflight, he added a quart of oil to the engine.
- He had about 4 hours of flight time in this make and model airplane.
- He believed an annual inspection was completed about 6 hours of flight time ago.



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- The flight instructor purchased this airplane recently, and this was the flight to return the airplane to his home base. The flights the day prior to the accident were normal.