



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Michael Huhn
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: May 29, 2013
Person Contacted: Mr. James Patton (Eyewitness)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR13FA244

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Patton in a telephone conversation on this date:

- The witness, his brother Mr. John Patton, and his brother's wife Ms. Kristy Patton, were in the front yard of the couple's home under construction, located at [REDACTED] Mountaineer Road
 - The couple was standing beside the witness' truck
 - The witness was seated in his truck, with the engine running
- He estimated that they were situated about 1/2 mile north of the accident site
- He first saw the airplane coming from the north, headed south to southeast, and about 100-200 feet agl
- The airplane "motor" was "sputtering"
- He saw the airplane fly over the [Mountainair General] "store"
- The height of the airplane was what got his attention
- The airplane passed directly overhead the three persons
- As it passed overhead, the airplane was headed southeast, and then banked to turn to the south
- The "motor was popping" as if it was "not firing on all cylinders"
- He did not see any landing gear
- He did not notice the flaps, and couldn't state whether they were retracted or extended
- He saw a "couple of puffs of light [density] smoke" which seemed to be synchronized in time with the popping noises
- The airplane was in a level attitude, but "nosed up dramatically" at or just before tree impact
- The witness headed for the accident site in his truck, and estimated that he arrived about 30 seconds after the impact
 - He observed a "massive fireball"
 - He immediately asked the others on site where the cockpit was located; no-one was able to help so he circled the wreckage until he located the cockpit
- He saw that the cockpit was facing northwest

- [REDACTED]
- The pilot was wearing a headset
- He approached the pilot's location with his handheld fire extinguisher, and operated it towards the pilot for a short time but the extinguisher quit
 - The closest he was able to approach was about 5 to 6 feet
- The heat and size of the fire forced him back after the extinguisher quit
- [REDACTED]
- He saw the left side of the airplane cabin give way from the fire
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
- The witness expressed concern about the timing of the arrival of the county fire personnel and equipment
 - The witness estimated that it took 25-30 minutes for the fire personnel and equipment to arrive, even though they were located within a mile of the accident site
 - The fire was "under control" (by the civilians using shovels, hoses, and fire extinguishers) by the time the fire personnel arrived
 - In the witness' estimation, the civilians "saved the houses" from fire damage
- [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]