

**National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety
Western Pacific Region**

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Date: 10/06/2015 Time: 0945 PDT

Person Steven Black- [REDACTED] Cedar City, Utah
Interviewed: [REDACTED]

Subject: Witnessed of the accident- WPR16FA002

Conversation:

I spoke with Mr. Brown on the telephone and he relate the following;

while standing on his front porch looking towards the southwest he saw the accident airplane prior to the accident.

He watched as the airplane was maneuvering in an aggressive manner, as it was climbing and descending.

He estimated that when the airplane was about 1,500 feet above the ground it departed controlled flight and started to descend in a nose down spiraling until he lost sight of it.

He submitted the following written statement.

Aircraft Crash

Monday October 5, 2015.

At approximately 13:00, on Monday, October 5, 2015, i was sitting on my front porch, at my house, located approximately 4 miles west of the Cedar City airport. While sitting there, reading the newspaper, i heard the sounds of a small aircraft engine.

There are many aircraft that operate in the area of my house, either in the process of departing, or arriving at the airport. Often times they are in the pattern of landing and as such fly either over my house, or very close to it.

On the 5th, earlier in the day, i observed a helicopter flying due west from my house about 3 miles away. It was not in straight and level flight, but rather was doing some basic maneuvering. It would enter a hover, then climb rapidly, in horizontal flight, then hover then descend rapidly to a hover, the repeat the pattern. This went on for several minutes.

At the time i heard the fixed wing aircraft. it appeared to be doing the same kind of pattern,,, that is to say, it was doing maneuvers, not just engaging in straight and level flight. As i had seen the helicopter doing similar type flying earlier, i did not follow every movement of the plane, but listened to it for a period of time while i was reading. My impression was that they were testing the plane's ` capabilities to some extent. This pattern of flight went on for at least 5 minutes of so, as i remember thinking, man they are working the plane out.

**Patrick H. Jones
Air Safety Investigator**

