

Smith Maja

To: Todd Newman
Subject: RE: interview

Hi Maja,

I really don't know how helpful this is, but here is my experience from that day August 16th:

My residence is about 1/3 mile away from where the plane went down. Since I am working from home many days, I was outside watching this plane flying in slow counter-clockwise circles descending with the engine power cut to an idle. Assuming this is stall training my eyes were not watching this plane continuously, but was able to hear it flying rather low and continuing the counter-clockwise descending above my home. This activity was/is a regular thing that students in the program do. Of course when the pattern is circles overhead, I look when the sound indicates that the plane is getting too low. That particular day the weather was very unusual here. Normal winds at ground level here are not extreme, but gusts can be strong yet have some constant wind between gusts. On the 16th the wind was gusting to 30-40mph here and the odd part was the wind between the gusts was dead calm. Very odd. As I was standing in my backyard paying attention to these strange gusting conditions, I could see the plane still making these counter-clockwise circles south of me. As I watched this plane slowly circling I noticed the craft was rocking quite a bit as it was descending through the gusts until it disappeared from my sight. It was not until the next day I knew of the crash.

I'd only ask that there is a conscience effort in the future of the USU program to keep flights out in open areas and not training over city communities. 1/3 of a mile is too close for my liking.

Todd Newman
Video Producer
Utah State University
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Logan, Utah 84322-6589