

Duke Crash Observation

Date: 5/15/19

Approx Time: 1845z

Location: KFNL

Witness: Peter Duncan and Dave Whitney

Peter Duncan - [REDACTED]

Witnessing Aircraft in flight Saratoga N9274Q

Observation:

At the time of the event. Me and my safety pilot Dave Whitney were in the pattern at KFNL. On downwind we heard the Duke announce he would be entering the pattern on the 45 over the Walmart distribution center. By the time we had turned final we heard the pilot of the Duke announce he had an emergency that he had a fire and that there was smoke in the cockpit. We immediately abandoned our approach, started a climb and saw the accident aircraft on downwind midfield. We saw flames coming from what appeared to be his left wing engine nacelle and transmitting back to him confirming he in-fact did have a fire. We called to him letting him know that the runway was clear. We also made subsequent calls over the Unicom frequency that there was a duke with an emergency making an approach to RWY 15. We also call made a call to airport ops to dispatch the fire truck.

We observed the accident aircraft turn base and just about when the accident aircraft was turning final we observed a large ball of fire and loss of control of the aircraft. Either the wing spar had failed or the fuel tank exploded; regardless the plane loss control rolling left and immediately in a tight nose down near vertical pitch, crashed.

Please let me know if there is any other additional information I can relay that might be of help.

Regards,

Peter.  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Scott Doyle [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 17, 2019 11:43 AM  
**To:** eyewitnessreport [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fw: Plane crash near Fort Collins, CO

Hello, my name is Scott Doyle and my phone is [REDACTED]

I am writing this regarding the twin engine plane crash near FNL being investigated by Arnold Scott in the Denver office. What I read about the incident from the local media is falling short. I don't know if anyone saw the craft as it approached from the south - I did!

As a pilot I seem to always look up when I hear an airplane engine. That day was no exception! I had lunch at Nordys BBQ with friends and when we were in the parking lot preparing to leave I looked up to see the twin coming from the south. The twin was at pattern altitude and looked to be entering downwind for 15.

The right engine was engulfed in flames (at least the bottom side) and burning red and orange but had no trailing smoke. We stood and watched as best we could until the ill fated plane crashed.

I wondered why the pilot didn't declare an emergency and land straight in on 33 since it appeared he would have had time/room to make that decision and it would have been less dangerous given fire and losing an engine. In any case, the right engine was burning hot and I didn't think that the wing/fuel tank could have sustained that level of fire/heat for long.

I hope this helps in the investigation and I am available to visit with you if so desired.

As a side note, watching the event was a terrible experience, even though I spent time in the military and have worked as a state trooper where there was no shortage of carnage.

Good luck with your investigation.....  
Scott Doyle

**From:** Giles Morris [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Thursday, May 16, 2019 12:13 AM

**To:** eyewitnessreport

**Subject:** Witness to fatal aircraft accident near Loveland CO airport 05/15/2019

Today I was a witness to the fatal crash of an aircraft that I now now was a Beechcraft twin on the northeastern boundary of the airport at Loveland CO. The incident took place on 5/15/2019 at 13:00.

- I am a volunteer at the Loveland Humane Society and I was walking a dog to the southeast of the shelter when I noticed an aircraft behaving unusually.
- It was flying northwest straight overhead the shelter property at (estimated) height of 150ft, I was less than 1000 feet (horizontally) from the aircraft.
- It was flying slower than I would expect of a twin, was not in any normal approach pattern and would have required a tight 150deg turn to port to reach runway 15.
- The aircraft was flying straight and mostly level, but the pilot seemed to be having trouble controlling pitch attitude, but it did not appear to be anywhere near a stall attitude.
- I did not notice any abnormality in engine sound.
- I could clearly see the port side and nothing appeared abnormal.
- The undercarriage was down and the pilot appeared to be having trouble controlling pitch.
- Suddenly it rolled very quickly to starboard and I saw large flames coming from the starboard engine nacelle, no smoke that I noticed.
- It continued to roll as it very rapidly entered a steep (perhaps vertical) dive.
- I lost sight of it behind the Humane Society shelter and immediately heard a single impact. Within a second or so I saw a large fireball, followed by a lot of black smoke.

Note: Although I have no experience beyond light piston singles, I'm a licensed pilot, so I was able to interpret what I saw.

Sincerely,

Giles Morris  
[REDACTED]

LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
VOLUNTARILY WRITTEN STATEMENT

I, Todd Anand make the following voluntary statement to Case # \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy \_\_\_\_\_, and Deputy \_\_\_\_\_  
who have identified themselves as officers of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Fort Collins, Colorado. Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Date of Birth	Age	Sex	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Eyes
[REDACTED]	40	M	5'9"	170	BR	BLU	
Home Address	[REDACTED]				City/State/Zip	[REDACTED]	
Work Address	[REDACTED]				City/State/Zip	Area Code + Phone	

Was in my pickup on north side of property near road and heard loud plane engine. Saw shadow pass over my cab and saw plane crash just south of my location. Plane was immediately in flames, then called 911.

I have read the above and foregoing statement and know the contents thereof and certify that the same is true and I am signing it voluntarily of my own free will.

[REDACTED] Signature

5/15/19 Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

**LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
VOLUNTARILY WRITTEN STATEMENT

I, Josh Bange make the following voluntary statement to \_\_\_\_\_ Case # \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy \_\_\_\_\_, and Deputy \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
who have identified themselves as officers of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Date of Birth	Age	Sex	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Eyes
[REDACTED]	34	M	5-9	200	brown	blue	
Home Address					City/State/Zip		
[REDACTED]					[REDACTED]		
Work Address					Area Code + Phone		
[REDACTED]					[REDACTED]		

I was riding my motorcycle ~~down~~ east on CR 30 in front of the Larimer Hummer Society.

I noticed the plane had a fire in the exhaust on the right wing. I pulled over to watch, right then the fire got much bigger. The plane started to roll upside down and the nose dived into the ground. I saw a piece come off the plane before impact and thought it was a eject but nobody seemed to have made it out. The plane landed in a construction site missing a guy in an excavator by 50 ft.

I have read the above and foregoing statement and know the contents thereof and certify that the same is true and I am signing it voluntarily of my own free will.

[REDACTED]  
Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

5-15-19  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

**LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
VOLUNTARILY WRITTEN STATEMENT

I, Shanna Lengyel make the following voluntary statement to  
Deputy \_\_\_\_\_, and Deputy \_\_\_\_\_  
who have identified themselves as officers of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Case # \_\_\_\_\_

Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Date of Birth [REDACTED]	Age 44	Sex F	Height 5'5	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Eyes
Home Address [REDACTED]		City/State/Zip [REDACTED]		Area Code + Phone [REDACTED]			
Work Address		City/State/Zip		Area Code + Phone			

was pulling out of human society saw plane on fire  
coming down. Crashed in field. called all as  
soon as I saw it. Plane hit ground very  
hard. Country Rd # 30.

I have read the above and foregoing statement and know the contents thereof and certify that the same is true and I am signing it voluntarily of my own free will.

[REDACTED] \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

5-15-19 \_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness





**LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
VOLUNTARILY WRITTEN STATEMENT

I, Fred Bravvas, make the following voluntary statement to Case # \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy \_\_\_\_\_, and Deputy \_\_\_\_\_  
who have identified themselves as officers of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Fort Collins, Colorado. Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Date of Birth [REDACTED]	Age 74	Sex M	Height 5 10	Weight 175	Hair Silver	Eyes	Eyes
Home Address [REDACTED]	City/State/Zip [REDACTED]			Area Code + Phone [REDACTED]			
Work Address [REDACTED]	City/State/Zip [REDACTED]			Area Code + Phone [REDACTED]			

I was traveling E on CO 30. Saw a ball of fire above the trees - 100 yds - at the time of impact, totally engulfed - could not approach

[REDACTED]

I have read the above and foregoing statement and know the contents thereof and certify that the same is true and I am signing it voluntarily of my own free will.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness



LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
VOLUNTARILY WRITTEN STATEMENT

I, JAMES PANDS make the following voluntary statement to Case # \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy \_\_\_\_\_, and Deputy \_\_\_\_\_  
who have identified themselves as officers of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Fort Collins, Colorado. Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Date of Birth	Age	Sex	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Eyes
[REDACTED]	00	M					
Home Address		[REDACTED]					
Work Address		City/State/Zip		Area Code + Phone			

I SAW A FLASHING OBJECT DROP FROM THE SKY AT THE END OF THE  
RUNWAY AT LARIMER AIRPORT. I LATER DISCOVERED THAT THE OBJECT  
WAS A PLANE.

I have read the above and foregoing statement and know the contents thereof and certify that the same is true and I am signing it voluntarily of my own free will.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

5/15/19  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
VOLUNTARILY WRITTEN STATEMENT

I, Victoria Suarez make the following voluntary statement to Case # \_\_\_\_\_

Deputy \_\_\_\_\_, and Deputy \_\_\_\_\_  
who have identified themselves as officers of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Fort Collins, Colorado. Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

Date of Birth	Age	Sex	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Eyes
[REDACTED]	51	F	5'3"		Brown	H2L	
Home Address	[REDACTED]		City/State/Zip	[REDACTED]			
Work Address	[REDACTED]		City/State/Zip	Area Code + Phone			

AS I was driving down 392 at mile 99 I saw an aircraft coming down on fire and crash. I called 911 immediately.

I have read the above and foregoing statement and know the contents thereof and certify that the same is true and I am signing it voluntarily of my own free will.

[REDACTED]  
Signature

5/15/19  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

LARIMER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
VOLUNTARILY WRITTEN STATEMENT

I, Tim [REDACTED] make the following voluntary statement to Case # \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy \_\_\_\_\_ and Deputy \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_  
who have identified themselves as officers of the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Date of Birth	[REDACTED]	Age	62	Sex	M	Height	5'11"	Weight	200	Hair	R	Eyes	B	Eyes	
Home Address	[REDACTED]										City/State/Zip	[REDACTED]	Area Code + Phone	[REDACTED]	
Work Address	[REDACTED]														

Saw both of our pups. They barked  
down

I have read the above and foregoing statement and know the contents thereof and certify that the same is true and I am signing it voluntarily of my own free will.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness