

ASI Mark Allen Inspector Statement

The Greensboro FSDO was notified on February 18, 2020 of an accident involving aircraft N5185R, a Cessna 172M, serial number 17263402. The accident occurred at Greys Creek Airport (2GC) on February 17, 2020 at 1350 EST. I was assigned as an airworthiness inspector along with Corey Paczkowski the operations inspector, to investigate this accident. We arrived on scene at around 1145 EST on the 18th. A law enforcement officer had been guarding the site until we arrived. Scott Smith, in charge of the flight school, and Steven Biddenger CFI, was also on scene. I took preliminary pictures of the crash site and assessed the damage. The indications on the ground indicates the aircraft struck the right wing tip initially, and then the propeller hit flat landing on the aircraft belly. Due to the extensive damage to the fuselage and wing spars, the aircraft was destroyed. Steven Baddenger witnessed the flight. He stated the aircraft was properly configured for take-off and had full engine power. The plane left the runway, went straight up, vertical, stalled and the nose went right then left before coming down to rest on the left side of the runway. The flaps were in the full down position when we arrived but witnesses confirmed they were up on take-off. I had Scott Smith reconnect the battery power to see if they would go to the full up position and they did. Steve stated that aircraft power could not be immediately removed after the accident because of the bent cockpit switch panel. There was no fire involved. Rescue teams recovered four people with various injuries. All people survived the crash at this time. There were 5-gallon gas cans in front of the aircraft when we arrived that had been recovered from leaking tanks. Reviewed aircraft logs, all inspections annual/100hr were in compliance. Aircraft seemed to be in airworthy condition.

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Greensboro FSO EA39