

Mitchell Rasmussen  
Air Safety Investigator  
AS - ANC

**Date:** 05/23/2024

**Subject:** ANC24LA035, Witness Interview

**Contact:** Dan Williams, Boyfriend of Pilot

Mr. Williams stated that he and his girlfriend, Katie Waito, were inside of his hangar at the Afton airport in Afton, Wyoming. The accident airplane's owner, Cody Harkins, approached them and asked about available hangar space at the airport. He saw Ms. Waito's airplane, a similar model to his, parked inside the hangar. Mr. Harkins began a conversation about airplane modifications he would like to do on his airplane that were like the one's on Ms. Waito's airplane. Mr. Harkins then said he wanted to take Ms. Waito for a ride in his new airplane. Mr. Williams stated that the accident airplane's owner never mentioned that he was a student pilot.

Mr. Williams was present for the preflight and watched Mr. Harkins start the airplane while seated in the left seat. Mr. Williams stated that he watched the airplane taxi out and begin the takeoff roll, which looked normal. However, the airplane did not lift off the ground when he had expected it too. He then saw the accident airplane veer left and then make a hard right, exiting the runway surface where it hit a fence and nosed over. Mr. Williams stated that the power never came out until the accident airplane hit the fence. Mr. Williams then drove to the accident site and took notice that there was rubber streaking down the length of the runway to the site, which he attributed to application of the brakes.

Mr. Williams stated that, at the time of the accident, the sky was clear and the wind was calm, with no crosswind.