



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Aaron McCarter
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date and Time: August 31, 2022 @ 0953
Person Contacted: Wes Malsberger (Son of Pilot) [REDACTED]
NTSB Accident Number: ERA22LA389

RE: Discussed the circumstances surrounding the accident

Narrative:

He observed the accident from takeoff through the impact with the trees. The takeoff seemed slower than normal; the engine also sounded weak. The takeoff roll was a bit longer also and the climb appeared slow. As it climbed, the airplane appeared to be on the verge of stalling. When the airplane got just over the tree line, the right wing dropped, and the airplane disappeared into the trees.

He ran towards the airplane wreckage, and he could see it about 200 yards in the trees. It was very thick brush and briars. He got to the wreckage and his dad (pilot) was on the ground. He jumped the 25 to 30 feet from the airplane that was on fire and caught up in the trees. That's where most of his injuries came from; it was the jump. The airplane had shoulder straps installed, not just lap belts.

Aviation fuel was purchased at another airport up the road and transported down to the airplane in gas cans.

His father (pilot) did not say anything about the cause of the accident. He was injured and weak. We called 911 and he was transported to the hospital.

[END]