# Incident # 19-00394 (1)

### PROCTOR, M.

On March 14, 2019, at approximately 1:42pm, I Detective Proctor was advised of a plane crash in the 3100 block of Lakeway Blvd., Lakeway, Tx. Myself, Sgt. Jason Brown and Detective Wendy Kanzenbach responded to the scene to assist.

Upon arrival we were instructed to gather statements from witnesses to the plane crash.

#### **STATEMENT #1**

The first person I met with was Allison Hall. Allison stated that she was driving down Highlands Blvd. to Lakeway Blvd. Allison stated that she observed the plane going "side to side" but did not hear the engine. Allison stated that she was fearful that it was going to land on her vehicle when it went down, landing at Lakeway Blvd. and The Hills Drive. Allison stated that she called 911 and tried to approach the plane, Allison was instructed by a male not to get close to the plane because it was leaking gas. Allison stated that an off duty fireman arrived on scene and assisted with the people inside the plane, as well as speaking with 911. Allison's statement is in the case file.

#### **STATEMENT #2**

The next person I met with was Lance Eilers who works for the City of Lakeway. Lance stated that he was headed westbound on Lakeway Blvd. when he saw smoke around the curve. Lance stated that he got to the intersection of The Hills Drive and Lakeway Blvd. and observed a plane that had crashed. Lance stated that he exited his vehicle to see if he could help and also called 911 for assistance. Lance stated that two men were at the plane attempting to help the individuals out and that is when first responders arrived on scene. Lance's statement is in the case file.

#### **STATEMENT #3**

The following statement was recorded on a cell phone and is uploaded to the report. I met with:

Walter Scott Epley, W/M, DOB:

The Hills of Lakeway, Tx. 78738 Cell ph:

Walter stated that he was at the Lakeway airpark at approximately 1:15pm today, March 14, 2019, and observed the two men getting into the plane that crashed. Walter stated that he believes one of the men was an instructor and the other man a student learning to fly. Walter stated that he believes they left the airpark at approximately 1:25 to 1:30pm. Walter stated that he saw them take off and observed them coming back to airpark to land, but were going very slowly. Walter stated that the plane was lined up with the air strip but noticed the plane wing dip and straighten out. Walter stated that he thinks they must have circled around for a second approach, from a different direction. Walter stated that they were approaching very slow and not in correct alignment with the run way. Walter did not know the names of the two men on the plane but believes one of them is a flight instructor and keeps his plane at the Lakeway Airpark located at 115 Flying Scott St., Lakeway, Texas.

Walter stated that he is a pilot and also has a plane at the Lakeway Airpark. Walter stated that he is on the board at the airpark and believes the plane that crashed is a "very good plane." Walter stated that the plane was approaching very slow and it was very windy. Walter stated that the approach was unusual and not in line with the run way.

#### STATEMENT #4

The following statement was recorded on a cell phone and is uploaded to the report. I met with:

Chris Wood, W/M, DOB:

Austin, Tx 78734

#### Cell phone:

Chris Wood is an off duty fire fighter for Lake Travis Fire Rescue. Chris stated that he was driving up Lakeway Blvd. and noticed people in the roadway and walkway in some type of distress. Chris stated that he pulled over and saw the plane at Lakeway Blvd. and The HIIIs Drive. Chris stated that he told the people to get back because the plane was leaking fuel. Chris stated that he tried to keep everyone back and approached the plane. Chris stated that both of the individuals were "unconscious and tore up pretty bad." Chris stated that fuel was leaking in "on top of them" so he tried to pull them out. Chris stated that he got one of the individuals out of the plane and a second off duty fire fighter showed up to help him get the second individual out of the plane. Chris stated that they began CPR and first responders showed up. Chris stated that he did not know the identity of the two male individuals and was not sure what position or seat they were in.

The scene was turned over to Lakeway Sgt. Jason Brown , DPS Trooper Sara Booth, and the FAA for additional investigation.

EOR Proctor

# Incident # 19-00394 (2)

#### KANZENBACH, W

On **Thursday**, **March 14**, **2018**, at approximately 1342 hours, Lakeway Communications received an emergency telephone call, advising of plane crash in the area of The Hills Drive and Lakeway Drive. Upon my arrival, I began collecting both verbal and written statements from several bystanders on scene. The following individuals were identified and provided the following statements:

Vega, Ash	ley, W/F
DOB:	
PH:	
WITNESS	

VEGA advised she walking with her children when she observed the plane take off from the runway. She stated that she noticed the plane veer to the left and crash "upside down". VEGA stated that she immediately dialed 911 and advised the call taker that two (2) occupants were in the plane. VEGA advised that one of the male individuals was unconscious with a faint pulse.

#### HAMILTON, Megan, W/F DOB: PH: WITNESS

HAMILTON advised she was driving (eastbound) on Lakeway Blvd from The World of Tennis when she observed the plane crash in front of her. HAMILTON advised she immediately ran towards the crash to help any occupants in the plane. HAMILTON stated she yelled and was unable to get a response from the two (2) occupants. She advised she crawled underneath the left wing and observed an unconscious male subject to be partially ejected. HAMILTON advised she screamed for other bystanders to assist in removing the occupants due to fuel actively flowing in and around the plane. HAMILTON stated that she was assisted by two (2) "off-duty" Firefighters and another female individual, who all successfully removed the occupants from the plane.

#### CONLEY, Sean, W/M DOB: PH: WITNESS

CONLEY stated he observed the plane take off from the runway and fly towards Lake Travis. CONLEY advised the plane appeared to ascend a short distance before making a sharp left turn (due to the gusty winds) over his residence on Dasher Dr. CONLEY stated he did not believe he heard the engine noise from the plane and was unsure if the plane lost power.

#### INSCORE, Michael, W/M DOB: PH: WITNESS

INSCORE advised that he was driving on Rough Hollow Dr (Highlands Blvd) towards Lakeway Blvd when he observed a plane fly above the tree line and then descend, vertically towards the ground. INSCORE stated he did not witness the initial crash impact but did observe the crash site several hundred yards away. INSCORE advised that he ran to assist in freeing the two (2) occupants from the plane.

#### CASTILLO, Sonia, W/M DOB:

#### PH: WITNESS

CASTILLO advised she was traveling on Lakeway Blvd towards Lakeway Dr (eastbound) when she observed a plane flying in the air approaching from behind her. CASTILLO stated the "fin" (wing) of the plane was sideways (to the left) and believed it was due to the gusty winds. CASTILLO advised that the plane looked to be "out of control" and crashed onto the street seconds later.

## Zbranek, Steven, W/M

DOB:	
PH:	
WITNESS	

ZBRANEK advised that he is a Certified Flight Instructor and had just completed a flight with a student. ZBRANEK stated that as he was standing near the Airpark fuel pumps the "subject plane" attempted to land but was unsuccessful due to the gusty winds. ZBRANEK advised that the "subject plane" added power and appeared to have control while flying around the air field in a second attempt to make a landing. ZBRANEK stated that the second landing attempt was unsuccessful, again due to the gusty winds. ZBRANEK stated that the pilot added power to the plane and still appeared to be in control as the plane flew towards Lake Travis. ZBRANEK advised that he could hear the motor of the plane begin to sputter. He further stated that from his view (from the ground), it appeared that the pilot attempted to turn the plane around to attempt an emergency landing at the air park. ZBRANEK advised that the motor of the plane turned away from the pumps and towards "The Hills", appearing as if the pilot was attempting an "emergency circle landing" towards the runway. ZBRANEK stated that the plane stalled during the turn attempt and descended straight towards the ground, "wing and nose" first from approximately 500-600 feet off the ground.

All statements (both written and audio) were scanned and entered into the media section of this case report.

On **Friday, March 15, 2019**, The Criminal Investigations Unit received an email from an individual -Richard MAYS The email contained a recorded audio clip of the radio traffic before and after the plane crash. MAYS stated the following:

"The audio tells some of the story.

The plane was doing pattern work, called final, then either missed the landing or departed, then did a 180 to return to the airport, then you hear the crash at about 11:08 on the time stamp

I hope this info is useful for the investigation

Richard mays

This audio clip has been attached to the media section of the case file.

No further information

DET W. KANZENBACH

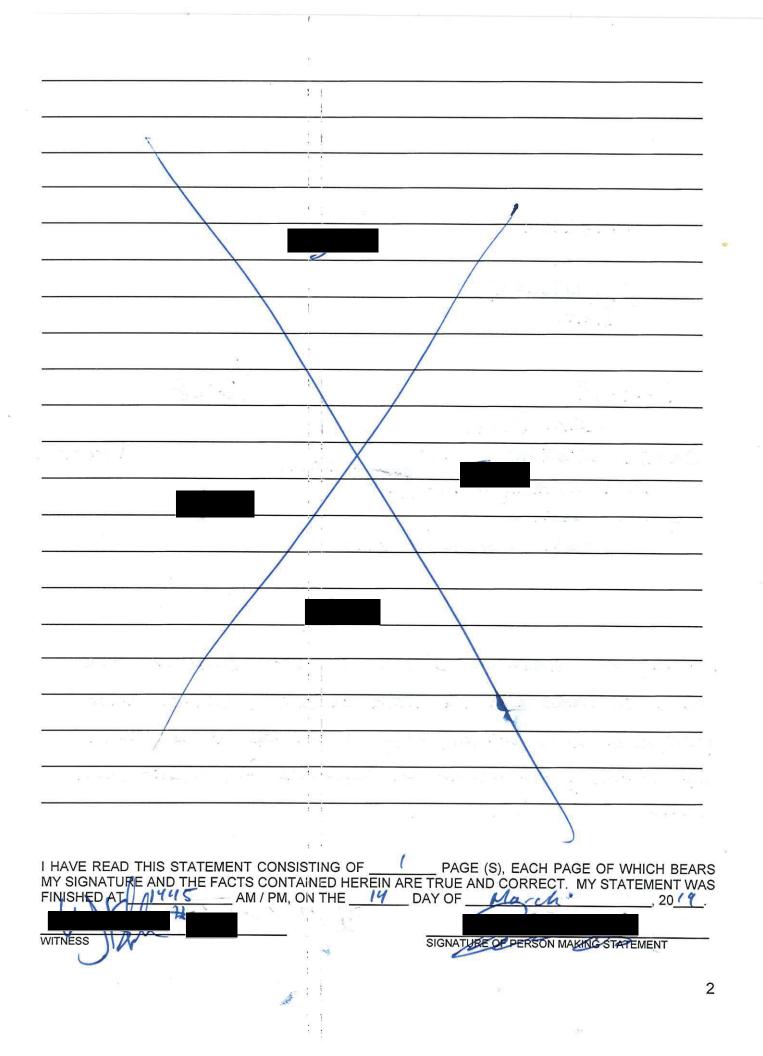
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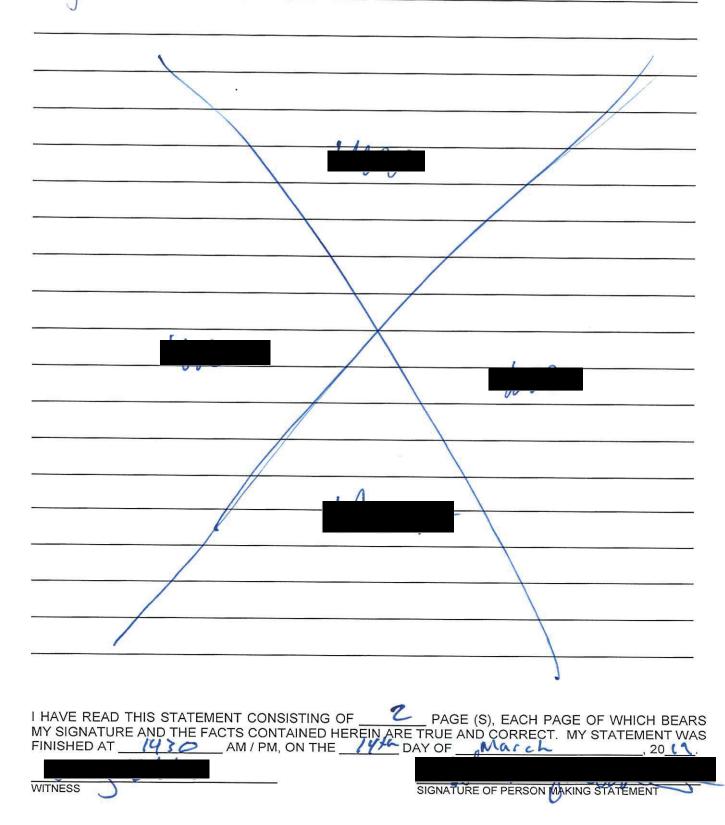
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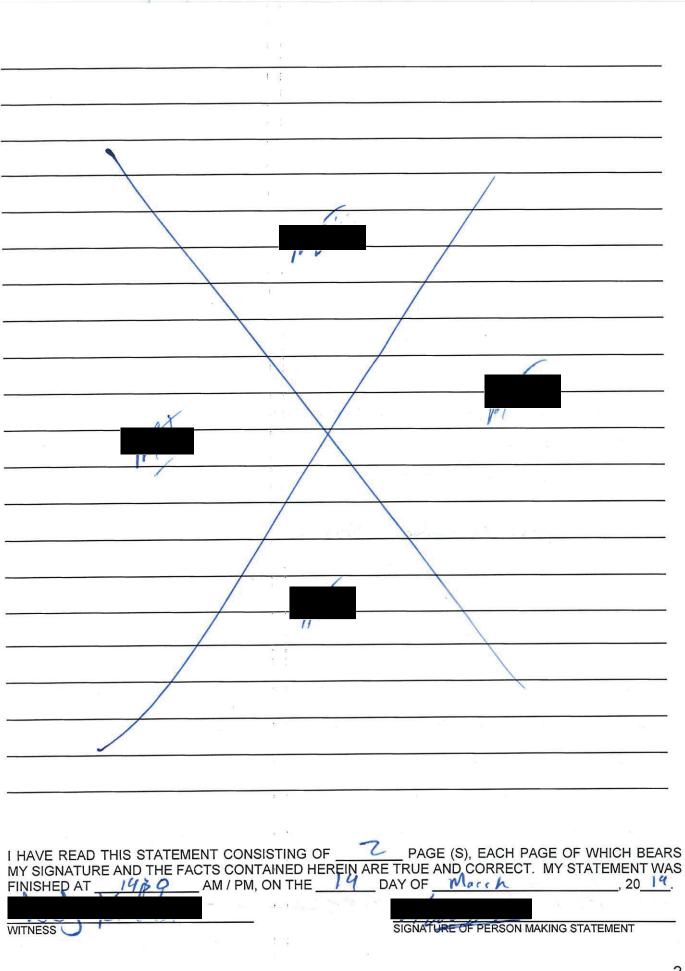
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the plane and first responders - fire trucks, police, etc.
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On Thursday, March 14, 20 <sup>2</sup> instructor with a student pilo during the preflight, through mechanical or other airworth lasting approximately one ho the terminal building and told	I operated Cessna 172, FAA registration N8620B, as a flight tarting at approximately 10am to approximately 11am. During the flight, and during post flight inspection I encountered no ess issues with the aircraft. Upon completion of our flight , we returned the fuel level to full. Scott Nelson came out of s he would be flying a lesson with a student soon and that we t the fuel pit instead of returning it to the tie down and

installing the cockpit cover. I left the student pilot to finish fueling the aircraft and went inside to visit with Scott. Also in the terminal building with Scott was an unknown white male that I now know to be Kevin Henderson. Kevin was discussing wanting to purchase an aircraft such as a Cessna 150/152 to use as a trainer and to build time. During the conversation Scott mentioned he was waiting for a student to arrive and that the student was a 15 year old male. As instructors Scott and I discussed the windy conditions and how Scott wasn't necessarily looking forward to flying with that particular student. I mentioned to Scott that I we had practiced ground reference maneuvers during our flight out to the west of the airport

WITNESS /

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT continued Yes or No

using Highway 71 and a long straight power line. There was also some conversation between Scott and Kevin regarding the windy conditions and how the wind was intimidating to Kevin. My student then came into the terminal building and I filled out his logbook as Scott's student arrived and I left the airport.

I HAVE READ THIS STATEMENT CONSISTING OF 2 PAGE (S), EACH PAGE OF WHICH BEARS MY SIGNATURE AND THE FACTS CONTAINED HEREIN ARE TRUE AND CORRECT. MY STATEMENT WAS FINISHED AT 11:20 AM , ON THE 20th DAY OF MARCH , 20 19

WITNESS

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAKING STATEMENT

## WITNESS STATEMENT OF M. MATTHEW WILLIAMS REGARDING PLANE CRASH AT LAKEWAY AIRPARK ON MARCH 14, 2019

On March 14, 2019 at approximately 12:30 PM I departed Lakeway Airpark the Cessna 172N co-owned by my flight instructor Steve Zbranek for a flight lesson. After flying to Burnet and Lago Vista for "touch and go" landings, we returned to Lakeway airpark at approximately 1:30pm.

The wind at that time was from the north and, therefore, the appropriate runway was 34. After tuning into the Lakeway frequency, we heard the subject Skyhawk on the radio. I'm not certain if it was already flying at that point. By the time my aircraft entered the pattern left downwind for runway 34 at the pattern altitude of 2000 ft, the other plane was second in the pattern behind us. We spoke on the radio to coordinate our respective positions in the pattern. At that time, the pilot in the other plane seemed very relaxed and calm. My impression is that they weren't having any problems during that downwind leg.

There was a strong gusting crosswind at the time of my landing. On final to runway 34, I was crabbed substantially into the crosswind and had to use a lot of rudder in the flare to make that landing. My instructor was very pleased, and he said something similar to, "Let's see if that real pilot can land in that wind." So, when the second Cessna came in for its landing, we were already parked at the fuel pumps, the radio (avionics) was off, and we were watching closely—the other plane did a go around. At that point, I began fueling up the plane and was standing on a step ladder on top of the wing. So, I had a good view of the runway.

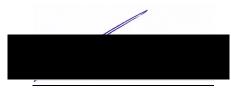
When the plane came around again, the plane initiated another go around. I was standing on the ladder still fueling when I noticed the plane coming back downwind towards the

airport. I yelled out to my instructor: "Steve something's wrong. That plane just did the impossible turn and is coming back."

Steve came over from the shack for a better look, and we both saw the plane coming in downwind over the runway, but very high. When the plane cleared the number 16 at the end of the runway, I heard the motor sputtering. I then saw the motor appear to restart because I saw a puff of darker exhaust come out of the motor at the same time that I heard the sound of the motor restarting. Then the plane floated over the top of us at the pumps. The plane was far off to the East of the runway. After it passed overhead, the plane moved back more to the center line of the runway and then it appeared to be preparing to try and move back into the left downwind leg for runway 34 when the plane appeared to abruptly stall and roll to its left in a nose-down attitude, which gave us a t-shaped view of the plane's roof from our perspective at the pumps, and the plane disappeared behind the trees. I said, "Steve, you should call 911 because I think we are the only ones that saw that."

This was approximately 1:40 pm. In a matter of seconds, sirens were heard, and the fire department appeared at the airport. Steve got on his portable radio and called the helicopter we had also heard approaching Lakeway and asked him to help first responders locate the plane. We initially thought the plane crashed in the neighborhood but soon found that it was next to Lakeway Blvd. We parked our plane in the hangar and went to the crash site, where it was already taped off and ambulances were tending to both people that had been in the plane.

SIGNED on this 18th day of November 2019.



M. Matthew Williams

### Statement from Michael G. Torbett

On the afternoon of March 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 I was mowing the grass in the backyard of my residence at Lakeway Texas. This house is located on the North West end of runway 16 of the Lakeway Airpark. I came around to the front side of my house by the garage and shut down my lawnmower. Immediately on shutting down my lawnmower I became aware of the sound of an airplane to the west of my position. This sound got my attention as it was unusual from what I would expect from an airplane at that location. I looked up and saw an airplane headed generally south and much lower than an airplane would normally be if it were making a downwind leg of a left traffic pattern to land on runway 34. The airplane had its flaps extended and the engine noises were not the sound of an engine making any appreciable power.

The airplane's position was not very far west from my location. It was almost directly overhead of my neighbor located on the west side of **Sector Constitution**. The airplane was headed in a south – south easterly direction. I judged they would likely intersect the runway near the terminal ramp area which is approximately midfield. It was clear to me that given their speed, altitude and the winds from the north that they would be unable to get the airplane on the runway and stopped before running off the end of the runway should they attempt to land to the south.

As I watched from my front yard the airplane went below the tops of the trees at about the midfield point. At that point I lost sight of the airplane and ran around to the back of the house to see where they ended up. I did not see them and so called a friend who lives on the south end of the airport to see if they could see anything. Shortly thereafter I saw a police car pull out on the airpark terminal ramp with its emergency red lights on. At that time I realized the airplane had likely crashed. I ran to my garage, got on my motorcycle and headed down Lakeway Boulevard where I came upon the crash scene.

At no time while I was observing the airplane did I hear any sounds which would indicate that the engine was making any appreciable power.

4-7eb-2020 Michael G. Torbett

Michael G Torbett is a private pilot with SEL and IA rating. He has approximately 2600 hours in various aircraft primarily J3-Cub, Pitts S-2A, Panzl S-330 and Beechcraft F33A. He was a member of the International Aerobatic Club and active in aerobatic competition and judging from 1998 to 2013.