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05/17/2023

Kristyn Blocher
NTSB

Hi Kristyn,

Below is a summary of the intake information I took from the clients. Both have read and agree to this description. Both were severely injured in this crash. Please let us know if this is sufficient.

The trip started around 820-830 am when they arrived at Grand County Airport. It was Albert, Terry and the pilot Linda. She was the owner of the plane. The weather was clear that day. It was cold and snow was on the ground. This was their first flight with Linda.

Linda did the inspection. Terry's girlfriend Jackie O'Reilly walked around the inspection with Linda. Jackie took a video because this was her first flight and she was excited. Jackie was supposed to go on the flight but couldn't. She also took a video of the takeoff.

Albert remembers Linda checking the fuel for moisture. Linda opened up the engine compartment. Linda said everything looks good. Linda filled out some form as well after the inspection. They took off at 908 am. The purpose of this trip was to scout areas to hunt.

A few minutes into the flight, the passenger door opened. Linda said that happens sometimes. Terry, the front seat passenger, had to close the door while in air.

Around 10am, they reached the planned hunting area in area 16A. They were about 10,000 feet up. Albert pointed where they needed to go and Linda turned northeast. It was a sharp turn and then the plane started to go down quickly. It felt/sounded like the plane lost power. They were in a low idle. Linda could not get the engine to get back into a full thrust. There was a mountain coming up and Linda was having a hard time. They were flying over the south end of the reserve. Linda was able to get the plane to level off but it was still dropping. Albert remembered it taking a few tries, maybe 5, to get the engine going earlier that day.

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Linda said this happens when it is cold. It was a newer engine about 5 months old. Terry remembers Linda saying the engine came from Colorado and was only used on about 5 flights before this flight.

They do not recall Linda calling for help or any distress. The flight was supposed to last 1.5-2 hours. They had about 5/8ths of a tank left so there was enough fuel to get home. The plane continued to drop as they got closer to the mountain and crashed into the trees.

In the minutes leading up to the crash, Albert remembered it was difficult to see out of the windshield because the plane was tilted up the entire flight. But out of the side of the plane, he could see a mountain. He alerted Linda so she could pull up. They avoided hitting that first mountain.

They never saw smoke out of the engine. But it sounded like the engine failed and never got back into full gear. It sounded like it was stuck in idle mode.

The videos mentioned above will be sent as separate attachments for your file. If you need anything else, please let me know.

Sincerely,

/s/ Matt Feinman

Matt Feinman, Esq.