



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Tealeye Cornejo

Air Safety Investigator (Field)

Western Pacific Region

Date: 04/24/2022

Person Contacted: Don Valentine

Contact Information: tel: [REDACTED] email: [REDACTED]

NTSB Accident Number: WPR22FA160

Narrative:

Mr. Valentine reached out to the eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov and emailed the following:

I witnessed the plane crash last Wednesday April 20 in Sylmar next to the 210 freeway. I was driving north on the freeway near Hubbard at about 12:30pm, when suddenly, I saw the airplane falling from the sky nose first at a very steep angle, crashing at the top of the freeway embankment. I estimate my car was 100-150 yards from the impact. I did not see any smoke coming from the plane as it fell. My car windows were rolled up, so I didn't hear any sound. I saw maybe the last 50-60 feet of it falling and the impact. I did not see any fire after the crash, as I slowed down in case debris might be projected onto the roadway, but I did not see any. I have not ever seen a plane crash, so this was quite disturbing. I knew anyone on board had likely been killed. I called LAPD and LAFD to report what I witnessed.

If you have any questions for me, please let me know.



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Tealeye Cornejo

Air Safety Investigator (Field)

Western Pacific Region

Date: 04/21/22

Person Contacted: Jeremy Fisher

Contact Information: email: [REDACTED]

NTSB Accident Number: WPR22FA160

Narrative:

Mr. Fisher reached out to the eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov and emailed the following:

So, I had witnessed the Sylmar small plane crash on the 210 freeway yesterday afternoon, I called your helpline and they told me to send an email. It was around 12:26 yesterday that I saw the plane had gone down. If I had to describe what was going on with it when it had crashed, it was heading north at slow speeds, and it did this maneuver almost like it banked to the side and did a 180. He was close to level it looked like for at least a second or so, and then nosedived straight to the ground. I couldn't see the point of impact where I was on the freeway because it was obscured by the tree line, but I knew there was no way he could have managed to pull up in time. I had pulled over on the side directly across from the crash and was calling the police along with another woman. I pulled away when I saw a firetruck was approaching my direction and didn't know if I was blocking a potential spot for emergency vehicles. My name is Jeremy Fisher, and if you have any need to contact with further questions you can use this email.



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Tealeye Cornejo

Air Safety Investigator (Field)

Western Pacific Region

Date: 04/21/22

Person Contacted: Keith Schulberg

Contact Information: tel: [REDACTED] email: [REDACTED]

NTSB Accident Number: WPR22FA160

Narrative:

Mr. Schulberg reached out to the eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov and emailed the following:

Regarding the accident on Apr 20 in Sylmar for the plane that took off from Whiteman airport tail number N143JB.

I was a friend of the pilot John King and talked with him the morning of the accident. One of the things we spoke about was that the repair facility at Whiteman airport that had repaired his forward landing gear. They were supposed to rebuild the landing gear, but they didn't replace an O-ring because it was too hard to get to.

Any questions call me

Keith Schulberg

Additional information obtained on April 27, 2022, via telephonically with the NTSB IIC.

Mr. Schulberg stated that the morning of the accident he had spoken with John (the pilot) over the phone about his displeasure with the landing gear rebuild. The initial reason the pilot was having work done on his landing gear was to raise the propeller-to-ground clearance from 3 inches to 5 inches, as he landed on dirt strips regularly.

Mr. Schulberg stated that the pilot relayed to him that the maintenance shop did not replace an O-ring on the nose landing gear because they could not reach it.

Mr. Schulberg stated that the pilot used this particular shop frequently, but did not know the name of the shop.