



Andrew Finne  
Air Safety Investigator  
Office of Aviation Safety

**Date:** May 1, 2023  
**Subject:** CEN23FA167 - Witness Statement  
**Contact:** Jerry Estes - Private Airstrip Owner

Mr. Estes was made aware of the unannounced arrivals by his wife who mention that several airplanes had landed on his airstrip in the back pasture. Mr. Estes met with the pilots who had been brought by Mr. Bailey, who he had met with him in the past regarding a sales ad that Mr. Estes had posted online. Mr. Bailey wanted to show his friends the items Mr. Estes had listed in the sales ad.

Later that day, Mr. Estes commented that the wind had started to pick up and he was concerned about the pilot's leaving his airstrip. He commented that the wind had become gusty enough that he wouldn't operate his personal aircraft off his airstrip. Prior to the airplanes departing, Mr. Bailey made a comment to Mr. Estes that he was going to show him the climb capabilities of his airplane and perform a steep climbing takeoff. Mr. Estes witnessed the airplane takeoff, perform a steep climb, and perform a left turn over the woods at the end of his airstrip. Once the airplane passed over the trees Mr. Estes lost sight before hearing a loud noise from his neighbor's property.

-END-