



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Timothy W. Monville
Sr. Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: March 5, 2019
Person Contacted: Joanne Hinton and Bill Hinton
NTSB Accident Number: ERA19FA112

Narrative:

Joanne and Bill Hinton provided NTSB an e-mail on March 5, 2019, at 1355 EST. The email was sent to eyewitnessreport@ntsb.gov. The exact narrative is cut and pasted below.

National Transportation Safety Board,

My husband and I were eyewitnesses to the last few minutes of flight and eventual loss of control of the yellow banner plane that was involved in a crash with pilot fatality on March 1, 2019 in Oakland Park, Florida. We were on our boat anchored a few hundred feet off the beach, just north of the area where the plane went down. The wind was blowing much stronger than we expected. My husband, Bill Hinton, was on board the boat and I was in the water diving for lobsters with our adult son who lives nearby in Pompano Beach; we were visiting for a few days. Bill and I both noticed the yellow plane flying north to the east of us at what seemed a normal altitude. It was pulling a very large banner that advertised the banner plane company. Bill watched the plane turn to the east, away from the beach, to change to a southerly heading. The plane was now flying at a much lower altitude and had come so close to shore that it flew directly over our boat. I was underwater and thought I was about to get run over by a boat because the sound of the plane engines were so close and loud. I surfaced as the plane was approximately 200 feet directly overhead and saw the plane's wings rocking back and forth in an apparent struggle to maintain control of the large banner in the wind. We did not hear any sputtering or backfire from the engine; it was steady and loud. Bill continued watching the plane as it flew south/southwest, observing the banner starting to whip around and twist. At this point the pilot seemed to be fighting for control with the wings rocking back and forth until the wind seemed to get under the left wing and flip the plane hard to the west. I was just surfacing again from the water in time to hear Bill shout "That plane is going down!" I looked to the south and saw the yellow banner plane less than 100 feet off the ground with the wings straight up and down as it disappeared from view behind a large beachfront condominium. Our fears were confirmed as we began to hear the many sirens from onshore and watched the hovering helicopters for hours from our position.

Please contact us if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you,

Joanne Hinton

[REDACTED]

Ormond Beach FL [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Bill Hinton - cell [REDACTED]