

Joshua Cawthra

From: Patrick Russo [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2021 2:19 PM
To: Cawthra Joshua
Subject: Re: Statement -

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Myself and Jason Van Orden were flying C129 (N160AQ) back from a utility job on Palomar Mountain. We obtained ATIS about 10-12 miles out and then gave Gillespie tower a call. We were told to expect a straight-in for runway 17. At approximately 5-7 miles out Gillespie tower called and told us we would be number three for landing for runway 17. A few seconds after this tower call an aircraft transitioning eastbound at 1,100 ft above us. We reported having visual contact with the called traffic (Mishap Aircraft) which was at 1 O'clock high. Then the Mishap Aircraft made a decent and appeared come down a few hundred feet. Initially, we both thought that the mishap aircraft was making a fast approach for landing. When the Mishap Aircraft was just above our altitude the aircraft began a rapid descent with a nose-down attitude and right-wing low. The mishap aircraft did not appear to turn or attempt to pull up. It impacted at a high rate of speed into a neighborhood about a mile north of the field. The point of impact appeared to be the front yard or driveway of a brown house. We called the crash in to tower and the tower asked us to proceed "East". We were then cleared around the smoke and to come in for a landing by the tower. At no time did we hear a distress call or any other communication other than Gillespie tower from the mishap aircraft.

Patrick Russo
[REDACTED]

On Monday, October 11, 2021, 01:40:05 PM PDT, Cawthra Joshua [REDACTED] wrote:

Thanks sir!

Josh

Joshua Cawthra
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator

National Transportation Safety Board

[REDACTED]
Federal Way, WA 98001