

Kristyn Blocher
Air Safety Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: 10/10/2023
Subject: WPR24FA004
Contact: Witness, Adam Wolfe

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Adam Wolfe in an email correspondence.

Mr. Wolfe reported that he lives in Newberg, OR and was between his home and Bell Rd. walking his dog, when he noticed the accident airplane fly directly overhead. He saw that it was "flying ok but making sputtering-type noises" and stopped to watch because it sounded strange going over him. When the airplane was near the area of Mountainview Dr. it started what looked like tight spirals while the airplane descended, with "the engine revving in and out." The engine "cut off completely" and the airplane nosed down further. He watched it fall and was hoping it would pull up; he thought it was a training exercise. He watched the airplane until he could no longer see it and then ran home. He put his dog in the house, told his daughter what he had seen and got into his car because he knew the airplane had crashed. When he was near the fire station, he saw a fire truck down the street. He got out and confirmed that it was there for the airplane crash, other equipment began to arrive, and he left.



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Date: 10/10/2023

Subject: WPR24FA004

Contact: Witness, "americanpilot503"

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by "americanpilot503" in an email correspondence.

"Americanpilot503" stated that after reading about the accident in Newberg OR, he was reminded about another accident from 2011 that also involved a Piper Seminole operated by (then) Hillsboro Aviation. He does not feel that a piece of news media he read about that accident was consistent with what the surviving flight instructor stated to him, after the 2011 accident, and signed his email, "Concerned Fellow Pilot."

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Date: 10/10/2023
Subject: WPR24FA004
Contact: Witness, Beth Muthiah

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Beth Muthiah in an email correspondence.

Ms. Muthiah stated that she is a Newberg resident and wanted to provide information regarding the airplane, leading up to the accident. She lives near the accident location and was eating dinner with her family. All of their windows and the door to their deck, were open. She regularly hears aircraft flying overhead near her home, but this one sounded different to her. She could tell that the aircraft was unusually low by the sound and how close it was to her house. To her, the propellers sounded strange and she turned to her teenager and said, "that's weird, wow, it's so close. Is that an airplane? No...it sounds like double rotor helicopter." She wondered if it was a helicopter because the airplane's propellers didn't sound like they were in sync - that you could hear them separately. She usually only hears the twin rotor helicopters during the day when they come from McMinnville. Shortly after this, her teenager received a text from a friend who was at soccer practice at the high school behind her house, saying that he had just seen an airplane spiral straight down out of the sky and crash. Because of the sound of the propellers, she wonders if one or both of them were "having issues."



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Date: 10/10/2023

Subject: WPR24FA004

Contact: Witness, Cameron Graybeal

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Cameron Graybeal in an email correspondence.

Mr. Graybeal reported that he and his son were standing about 1km from the accident site when his son called his attention to the accident airplane as it was spiraling down. His son had been watching the airplane flying "normally", and then saw it fly near a flock of geese. They do not know if the airplane struck any geese before losing control but wanted to share that they saw geese in the area, in case it was helpful. Phone [REDACTED].



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Date: 10/10/2023
Subject: WPR24FA004
Contact: Witness, Charles Ross

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Charles Ross in an email correspondence.

Mr. Ross submitted an audio recording from the Hillsboro Control Tower archives, that includes the accident airplane departing. He can be reached at [REDACTED].

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Date: 10/10/2023
Subject: WPR24FA004
Contact: Witness, Chris White

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Chris White in an email correspondence.

Mr. White stated that he and his wife were driving northbound on South Springbrook Rd near E 2nd and Fernwood Dr., and that it was a clear day. They saw the accident airplane falling vertically, "tumbling over/spiraling like it was simply dropped from above." They did not hear noise or see smoke, but they did see "blueish" wingtip lights flashing alternately as the airplane fell. They had not seen the airplane before seeing it descending vertically. They thought initially that was a remote control/model airplane that had lost signal rea. It was only when they saw multiple fire trucks rush past them that they had a bad feeling that it was all real. Their number is [REDACTED].



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Date: 10/10/2023

Subject: WPR24FA004

Contact: Witness, Jennifer Powell

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Jennifer Powell in an email correspondence.

Ms. Powell submitted a video of the accident airplane she had seen on social media. The video shows the airplane in a vertical, spiraling descent.



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Date: 10/10/2023
Subject: WPR24FA004
Contact: Witness, Jim Nesbitt

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Jim Nesbitt in an email correspondence.

Mr. Nesbitt stated that he is not surprised that "one of their planes crashed." He lives near a shopping mall about 16 miles from HIO and sometimes hears noise from his backyard that is annoying, then realizes that it is an airplane flying around the shopping mall "for the 20th time, or even 40th." When he opens the flight Radar 24 app, he sometimes sees the airplane identified as "Hillsboro Aero Academy." He stated that he doesn't know much about flying, but he can't imagine that "flying around a shopping center for hours, just to get your pilots license would prepare any pilot for an emergency such as happened over Newburg the other day." He also said that he can see why they do this and that when flying with his cousin in a King Air, he often doesn't know where they are and that he looks for familiar land marks to give him a reference; so for student pilots logging hours, a large shopping mall could give the comfort of knowing where they are in the moment, but that it must certainly prepare no one for surprise emergencies.



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Date: 10/10/2023

Subject: WPR24FA004

Contact: Witness, Joel Ayres

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Joel Ayres in an email correspondence.

Mr. Ayres reported that he on a walk with his family when he saw the accident airplane spiral toward the ground. He did not see the airplane impact the residence. He can be reached at [REDACTED] if necessary.

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Date: 11/01/2023
Subject: WPR24FA004
Contact: Karla Schaapveld, witness

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Karla Schaapveld via email correspondence.

Ms. Schaapveld stated that she had information that might be pertinent to the investigation into this accident. She believed that the accident aircraft may have sustained damage from the jet blast of another aircraft during 2023's Oregon International Airshow's ground operations within the Hot Pit area. She could not be certain, however, whether the accident airplane damaged, only that one of the Hillsboro Aero Academy Seminoles had experienced jet blast. Airshow personnel were made aware of the problem and moved the location of the EA-18s for the remainder of the event.

Ms. Schaapveld provided a phone number, [REDACTED], requesting a call in order to discuss the context of her concern and stated that she had a video and still photos she could provide.

NTSB requested that she send the video and photos, and provided a link which would accommodate the large video file.

Ms. Schaapveld forwarded photos and utilized the provided link to forward the video file. She also described the contents of the video as showing an EA-18 taxi movement, directed by an Airshow volunteer that had the aircraft maneuver toward the terminal building and Hot Pit tent. She explained that she would not have had this aircraft taxi in this manner and that it had been likely to cause jet blast to a HAA

Seminole. She then described her approach to accident investigation and that she sees every life event as a learning opportunity.



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Date: 10/10/2023
Subject: WPR24FA004
Contact: Witness, Kirk Boaz

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Kirk Boaz in an email correspondence.

Mr. Boaz stated that he had been advised to provide his account of the airplane accident in Newberg, OR that happened on 10/3/2023. He noted that he had been visiting family in Newberg, from out of state, and that he hoped the locations he mentioned were accurate. He had been driving his mother's car down the hill on Stringfellow when he saw an airplane with three windows on one side as it was spinning, nose down. He stated to his mother that the airplane was crashing, and it did. He noted that it was straight down, coming directly to the ground. It was not spinning quickly, he thought clockwise, and that it was a very slow circle as it spun, nose first. He had never seen anything like it, and it felt like slow motion. He hoped this account would help.



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Date: 10/10/2023
Subject: WPR24FA004
Contact: Witness, Micah Schauer

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Micah Schauer in an email correspondence.

Mr. Schauer submitted a video of the accident airplane he had captured and that had been being used by local news and other media. He was advised to contact the NTSB as owner of the video. The video shows the airplane in a vertical, spiraling descent. Phone [REDACTED].

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Date: 10/10/2023

Subject: WPR24FA004

Contact: Witness, [REDACTED]

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by [REDACTED], a minor, in an email correspondence.

[REDACTED] reported that he and his soccer team had been practicing at his school's soccer field when he and the team looked up and saw the accident airplane "out of control", spinning, and about ready to crash. They saw it go behind a house before it crashed. One of his coaches drove toward the crash as quickly as he could, in a black truck and they could smell fuel. Then they heard sirens. Phone number, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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Date: 10/10/2023
Subject: WPR24FA004
Contact: Witness, NPD Officer

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by a Newberg Police Department Officer, to NTSB investigators while at the accident site.

The NPD Officer stated that he had been approached by the friend of a pilot associated with Hillsboro Aero Academy and had been told that the pilot had previously stated concerns about flying the accident airplane during their checkride, due to maintenance issues and previous trouble they had had, restarting an engine after shutting it down during single engine training maneuvers.



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Date: 10/10/2023
Subject: WPR24FA004
Contact: Witness, Peter Vandecoevering

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Peter Vandecoevering in an email correspondence.

Mr. Vandecoevering reported that he, his brother, and his father witnessed the accident airplane from his home. They saw the airplane spiral down "for a while" and thought it was a stunt, because the McMinnville airshow had recently occurred. They initially thought it may be an airshow airplane that was leaving the area. They were shocked when the airplane never pulled up. They did not capture any video of the accident. Phone [REDACTED], Newberg, OR.