

# NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Vehicle Recorder Division

Washington, D.C. 20594

September 13, 2017

## Air Traffic Control Recording

Specialist's Study Report

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### 1. EVENT

Location: Sheridan Lake, Colorado  
Date: May 18, 2016  
Aircraft: Cessna P210N  
Registration: N6609P  
Operator: Stubblefield Construction Company  
NTSB Number: CEN16FA188

On May 18, 2016, about 0901 mountain daylight time, a Cessna P210N, N6609P, sustained substantial damage when it impacted a field in a flat spin about 4 miles northeast of Sheridan Lake, Colorado. The pilot, the sole occupant, received fatal injuries. The airplane was registered to and operated by the Stubblefield Construction Company under the provisions of the 14 *Code of Federal Regulations* as a Part 91 personal flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed at the time of the accident, and the airplane was receiving visual flight rules (VFR) flight following from the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC) in Denver, Colorado. The airplane departed the Rock Springs-Sweetwater County Airport (RKS), Rock Springs, Wyoming, about 0645 and was en route to the Wiley Post Airport (PWA), Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

### 2. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Vehicle Recorder Division received an excerpt of an air traffic control (ATC) recording. The purpose of the study was to determine what was said in the excerpt.

#### 2.1. Methodology

The sound wave form and spectral image were examined, and pitch contours identified using Praat.<sup>1</sup> Sound was listened to by two different people, one who had no knowledge of the investigative facts.

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<sup>1</sup> Boersma, Paul & Weenink, David (2017). Praat: doing phonetics by computer [Computer program]. Version 6.0.31, retrieved 21 August 2017 from <http://www.praat.org/>

## 2.2. Results

Figure 1 shows the audio excerpt wave form, spectral image, and pitch contours. The text identified by two different listeners was “guys want me-to do-a muller.” Additionally, the speech was slurred.

Figure 1. Excerpt wave form, spectral image, and pitch contours.

