

Communication Summary

June 13, 2016



Information from: Mr. Charles L. Ray, Witness

Summary & Factual Information: Mr. Ray was asked to give a statement in reference to the accident. He, in part, stated that he flew to Classic at 10:00am on Sunday and was visiting a friend Scott Haggemacher, the owner of Classic and saw Floyd Von Cannon drinking from a red cup that smelled like alcohol before noon. He refilled the cup 2 or 3 times during the next 2 or 3 hours. I was helping a friend and noticed Floyd going and coming from his hangar back to Scott's but really didn't think that much about it. When we finished working I heard Floyd say he was going to put on an airshow. I thought he was kidding until I heard someone tell him he did not need to fly. People began leaving and I had flown over in my plane so I decided to leave too. I got to the door and saw Floyd getting in his helicopter across the runway on Marty Bunch's airstrip, East of Scott's. In a very short time Floyd had started it and lifted off at a 45 degree angle backwards and upwards.

The helicopter rose to about 125 feet and stalled falling out of sight behind hangars between the two strips. I thought I heard it hit but the engine never shutdown and the helicopter began to rise upwards and began to spin around. It appeared that the tail rotor was not working and the skids were bent as if it had hit the ground. It continued to rise to approximately the same height as it was when it initially stalled before falling to the ground and bursting into flames in the middle of Scott's strip. The helicopter was completely engulfed in flames and it was apparent that we did not have a means or a chance to extinguish the fire. Scott called 911 and we waited for them to arrive.

I can attest that the above summary is correct to the best of my knowledge:

Edward F. Malinowski
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator