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### **(Neb)-Initial NTSB Report Gives No Reason For Fatal Chadron Plane Crash**

By: John Axtell Posted at: 08/01/2019 01:23 AM

CHADRON, Neb. (AP) - The National Transportation Safety Board has released its preliminary report into last Wednesday's fatal crash of a single-engine plane trying to land at the Chadron airport, killing the Californians on board, but the report does not list a probable cause.

Killed were the plane's owner, 61-year old Damon Brown, his 68-year old wife Sarah - both of Sebastopol, and their 25-year old son Duncan of Forestville. Although not identified by name, the NTSB report says Damon Brown was the pilot.

The family had been attending a major aviation show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and were headed to Chadron from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, as part of their trip home.

The NTSB report released Wednesday did include statements from two witnesses without identifying them. One was at the airport and told investigators he saw the plane as it was preparing to land suddenly drop nose-down behind the tree line.

The other witness was clearly Alyssa Rasmussen because the statement in the report is nearly identical to what she told the Chadron Record shortly after the crash.

In both accounts, she said she heard the plane as it was flying over her home about a quarter-mile northeast of the crash when the engine "sputtered" as if it lost power. She then looked for the plane, but couldn't see it.

The plane went down at the edge of a windbreak just short of the airport. There was no fire after the crash and first responders at the scene said privately that they could not detect any smell of aviation fuel.