
Hibbing Police Department
Main

Reported Date: 08/31/2016 **Time:** 12:45 **Case No.:** 16205052

Code: **Crime:** Air Crash

Class: **Occurrence Date:** 08/31/2016

Location: Hibbing / Chisholm Airport

===== NARRATIVE =====

On August 31, 2016 at approximately 12:45 hours, I responded to an airplane crash at the Hibbing / Chisholm Airport. As I was the first to arrive on scene, I radioed to other responding squads directions to the tarmac and the location of the crash. As I ran toward the crashed plane, I observed that it was leaking airplane fuel, and alerted other squads to use caution.

Hibbing EMS and Fire was already on scene at this time and were standing on the right hand side of the plane attempting to access the injured pilot. I observed that the injured pilot has several lacerations and had lost a lot of blood. The rescue team was having difficulty accessing the pilot due to obstructions from the crash. I could see that there was a door immediately to the left of the injured pilot and asked members of the rescue team why they weren't using the door to the left of the pilot. They explained that the wing of the plane was bent downward and would not allow them to access the pilot's door.

I then went to the left side of the plane nearest the injured pilot and placed my left shoulder under the damaged wing using my legs to lift the wing enough to clear the top of the pilot's door. I then used my fingers to pry the door open sufficiently to give it a hard pull. I was able to pull the pilot's door clear from the plane giving the rescue team clear access to the injured pilot.

During my attempt to gain access to the pilot, I later realized that when I lifted the wing, airplane fuel had leaked from the wing onto my uniform and shoes. I reported directly to Captain Cliff Arola to advise of the fuel on my uniform. Captain Arola referenced the airplane fuel and advised me of how to avoid further hazard.

As Life Link Helicopter was preparing to land on scene, I assumed the role of staging manager and directed newly responding personnel to park their vehicles away from the designated landing zone for Life Link Helicopter.

After the injured pilot was secured from the plane and placed on to Life Link Helicopter, they departed for a hospital in Duluth, MN. I then cleared from the scene.

SRO James Townley # [REDACTED]
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