

CRASH SCENE EVIDENCE COLLECTION

RECONSTRUCTION NUMBER: 2017-184-SER

INCIDENT DATE: June 15, 2017

CALL FOR SERVICE NUMBER: 53-0480

REPORTING RECONSTRUCTIONIST: Thomas W. Erdmann, Sergeant

REPORT DATE: August 26, 2017



- ***Request for Assistance***

On June 15, 2017, at the start of my shift to work the 117th U.S. Open golf tournament, I was called to the scene of a blimp crash. A blimp with the name *PenFed Credit* crashed in a farm field near State Trunk Highway 83 (STH-83) and Terry Road, Washington County. The State Patrol Technical Reconstruction Unit was requested to map the crash scene. I responded to the scene from the City of Waukesha and arrived at 12:59 p.m. Trooper Michael Smith of the Technical Reconstruction Unit and Trooper Glen Jones of the Southeast Region also responded to the scene to assist with mapping.



Figure 1 - Crash Location

- ***Initial Observations:***

We entered the scene from 1388 STH-83 and followed a trail to crash location. Trooper Smith, Trooper Jones, and I met with deputies from the Washington County Sheriff's Department. We were told the Federal Aviation Administration would be the lead investigation agency and the administration had personnel responding. The parts from the aircraft were still in their final rest positions upon our arrival. The injured operator of the aircraft was removed from by the scene by a medical helicopter before our arrival.

- ***Evidence Collection:***

Trooper Smith had located and marked parts and debris located throughout the crash scene. Trooper Jones and I completed forensic mapping of the scene with two Trimble™ R10 Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) total station. Trooper Smith took eighty-nine (89) digital photographs of the scene. I downloaded the Trimble GNSS and data to my laptop computer.

- ***Scale Diagrams***

I prepared a final scaled diagram of the scene with the Cad Zone computer aided drawing software, which included the scene evidence.

- ***Conclusion:***

All data, diagrams and reports were forwarded to the Federal Aviation Administration, National Transportation Safety Board, and Washington County Sheriff's Department. The Wisconsin State Patrol was requested to only map the scene and provide an accurate location of scene evidence. This author makes no conclusions as to the sequence of events that occurred prior to his arrival.

Respectfully Submitted,

[Redacted Signature]

Thomas W. Erdmann, Sergeant
ACTAR Accredited Crash Reconstructionist # 1413
Wisconsin State Patrol Technical Reconstruction Unit
433 West St. Paul Ave., Suite 300
Milwaukee, WI 53203



RECONSTRUCTION REPORT SUPPLEMENT

CASE NUMBER: 2017-184-SER

REPORTING RECONSTRUCTIONIST: Tpr. Matthew A. Johnson, ACTAR

INCIDENT TYPE: Aircraft/ Blimp Crash



(800) 375-7302
June 15, 2017

On June 15, 2017 at approximately 11:00 a.m., I was assigned to NW Rover Patrol at the USPGA Erin Hills Golf Outing. While working traffic post located at STH 83 and Cork Road, I noted an aerial blimp with the name PenFed Credit flying west of STH 83. I noted that the blimp appeared to be struggling to stay in the air and looked underinflated at the rear of the aircraft.

At approximately, 11:15 a.m., I observed the blimp in the air west of the STH 83 nose down, losing altitude and engulfed in flames. I radioed dispatched of the crash and traveled to the scene.

As I arrived at the scene, I noted a moderate explosion from the blimp. The blimp was located approximately 2000 feet east of 1410 STH 83. There were several other State Troopers and fire fighters on-scene. I transported several EMT's from the residence across the farm fields to the area of blimp. There was a male laying on the ground west of the burning blimp with several Troopers around him rendering aid. I could see he was conscious but in pain, I noted burn marks on his body. I assisted Sergeant Hyer with securing the scene and coordinating with EMT's for flight for life response.

- ***Additional Narrative:***

This is the end of this supplement report written on today's date, June 15, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Trooper Matthew A. Johnson.

Trooper Matthew A. Johnson, ACTAR #2153
Accredited Technical Reconstruction Specialist
Wisconsin State Patrol- Technical Reconstruction Unit



TECHNICAL RECONSTRUCTION REPORT SUPPLEMENT

CASE NUMBER: **2017-184-SER**

REPORTING RECONSTRUCTIONIST: Trooper Glen A. Jones

CRASH TYPE: Class II



(262) 785-4700
000053-0480

- FORWARD -

Crash Reconstruction is a comprehensive subject with many facets and specialty fields. The primary responsibility of the investigation is to document and preserve all available physical evidence. The following reconstruction is limited to the subjects stated herein. The author and the Wisconsin State Patrol reserve the right to conduct a more extensive analysis of the available material on a later date as necessity dictates.

NARRATIVE

I was on duty at approximately 11:17 a.m. on June 15. I monitored a report of a blimp that was on fire and crashed near the Erin Hills Golf Course. The 117th US Open was being held at the golf course at the time of the incident.

I responded to the area of the crash to assist with perimeter control points. As I was arriving, Flight for Life was inbound for the sole occupant of the blimp. Lieutenant Nate Clarke assigned me to be the medical check point officer as the helicopter arrived.

Once the patient was transported by helicopter, I was assigned to assist with the investigation of the blimp crash. I utilized a Trimble R10-GNSS Total Station to survey the scene.

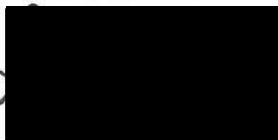
Sergeant Thomas Erdmann was also using an R10-GNSS to map the scene as well.

Washington County Sheriff Department Captain Bruce Theusch and Deputy Joseph Lagosh were also at the crash site as we conducted our investigation.

The blimp was owned by AirSign Aerial Advertising.

After mapping the scene, we stood by to wait for the FAA and NTSB to arrive, before turning the scene over to them.

Respectfully submitted,



Trooper Glen Jones, ACTAR 2604
Accredited Crash Reconstruction Specialist
Wisconsin State Patrol – Southeast Region Post



Offense/Incident Report

SP4500 8/2003 s. 110.07(2m) Wis. Stats.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of State Patrol

Case/CFS/RD 000053-0480

Form Status: Reviewed

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Court Date	Court Time	Traffic Charges	Optional Court Memo						
		No							

#	Offense/Incident	Section #	Bond Amount	Date	Time
1	Assist Other Agency - - Blimp Crash	Assist Other Agency	\$0.00	6/15/2017	11:15 AM

Offender/Subject - Last, First, Middle, Address, City, ST, Zip Code							Alias		
Thompson, Trevor Berkley									
[REDACTED]									
Waleska, GA. 30183							SSN	Area Code - Telephone #	
								[REDACTED]	
							FBI #	CIB #	
Sex	Race	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Birth Date	Driver License #	State	Expires
MALE	WHITE					[REDACTED]			
Custody		Custody Location					Referred To		
No									

Offense Location									
STH 83 and Terry Road									
City/Town/Village							County		
Erin							WASHINGTON - 66		

Veh. Year	Make	Type	Body Style	Color	VIN	Plate #	Plate Type	State

Vehicle Location								

Narrative

Blimp Crash

000053-0480

This report is being written by Trooper Christopher Lohman, currently assigned to the US Open Northwest Sector Rover Position.

On Thursday June 15th 2017 at approximately 1115 hours I monitored a call on my squad radio of a report of a blimp fire and blimp crashing. I knew from working the area the blimp was in the area of STH 83 and Terry road.

I responded lights and siren to the area and as I was responding I could the blimp on fire and descending rapidly, I then lost sight of it as it went behind some trees. I pulled into 1470 STH 83 into the parking lot and drove toward the crash site, as I pulled in Trooper Simpson was also arriving. We drove off road thru a field and stopped at a tree line near the crash site.

We exited our cars and went thru the field toward the crash. As we approached there was an explosion coming from the crash site. We saw several male parties standing and kneeling away from the crash site. They were yelling that the pilot was here. As we approached we found out there was one patient that was away from the scene of the crash. We provided initial first aid and gathered information regarding what was on the blimp that was exploding. The patient was conscious and alert and was obvious he was in a lot of pain. He had burn trauma to his face and arms. He relayed to us that his neck area was in pain. He relayed to us there was three propane tanks on board the blimp. There were two explosions as we were on scene. He told us that he was executing an emergency landing and shut down the propane tanks before the crash. The patient told us his name was Trevor and we gathered personal information from him and kept him stabilized in a comfortable position.

Once rescue personal arrived on scene we assisted them with patient care. It was decided by EMS personal to have flight for life (FFL) respond due to his injuries. We assisted EMS personal with loading and transport of Trevor to the FFL landing zone. As we arrived at the landing zone FFL was landing. He was then turned over to FFL staff by EMS personal.



Offense/Incident Report

SP4500 8/2003 s. 110.07(2m) Wis. Stats.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of State Patrol

Case/CFS/RD 000053-0480

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Evidence Control Number : None

Report Supplement

NO	Property Report/Receipt
NO	Witness / Victim
NO	Subject Management
NO	Juvenile
NO	Domestic Violence
NO	Video Taped
NO	Photos Taken
Attachments	

6/15/2017

Yes

(Report Date)

(On Duty)

Lohman C

2403

(Reporting Officer Name)

(WSP #)

Zovar S

6/21/2017

(Reviewed By)

(Review Date)

[Click here to unlock the report](#)



Offense/Incident Report

SP4500 8/2003 s. 110.07(2m) Wis. Stats.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of State Patrol

case#0565740

Court Date	Court Time	Traffic Charges	Optional Court Memo						
		No							

#	Offense/Incident						Section #	Bond Amount	Date	Time
1	Assist Other Agency - - BLIMP CRASH						Assist Other Agency	\$0.00	6/15/2017	11:17 AM

Offender/Subject - Last, First, Middle, Address, City, ST, Zip Code							Alias		
THOMPSON, TREVOR B									
[REDACTED]									
WALESKA, GA. 30183							SSN	Area Code - Telephone #	
								[REDACTED]	
							FBI #	CIB #	

Sex	Race	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Birth Date	Driver License #	State	Expires
	WHITE					[REDACTED]			

Custody	Custody Location						Referred To		
No									

Offense Location									
1470 STH 83									

City/Town/Village							County		
HARTFORD							WASHINGTON - 66		

Veh. Year	Make	Type	Body Style	Color	VIN	Plate #	Plate Type	State

Vehicle Location								

Narrative

Assist with blimp crash.

On June 15, 2017 I Trooper Robert Simpson responded to reports that the AirSign blimp had crashed in a field east of Sth 83 near Terry Rd. I responded to the area and noticed heavy black smoke coming from behind a grove of trees. I turned into a driveway marked 1470 sth 83 and followed Tpr. Lohman to the crash site. Tpr. Lohman and I drove east through a planted field and stopped our squads at a grove of trees. I could hear a loud explosion and flames on the other side of the grove of trees. I exited my squad and climbed through the brush and I could hear someone yelling "he is over here". I ran to that location with Tpr. Lohman and noticed a white male laying partially on his left side with a visible injury to forehead and near his eyes. I noticed that his clothing looked singed as if it was exposed to flames. I asked the subject were there any passengers and he stated he was the pilot and no passengers. I asked the subject where he was feeling pain and he said his neck was hurting bad. I told the subject to lay on his back and that rescue was on the way.

Tpr. Lohman asked the subject what happened and he stated that he had some type of failure. He stated something about the flaps where open and that he then initiated emergency procedures and started closing valves. While talking with the subject there was a loud explosion and more flames. The subject stated that there were three propane tanks on the vehicle. I told Tpr. Lohman there were two explosion and we should expect another explosion. I told Tpr. Lohman that we need to keep people from running up to the vehicle due to only hearing two explosions. I asked the subject his name and he stated it was Trevor Thompson. I asked Trevor for his address and phone number to keep his mind off his injuries. I also obtained his wife's contact information and learned that she was about 30 min away. I told Trevor that we would contact his wife as when we knew the hospital he was being transported too.

Fire & EMS arrived and tended Trevor's injuries. Tpr. Lohman and I assisted with screening Trevor from the sun with jackets to protect his burns. Tpr. Lohman and I then assisted in lifting Trevor and caring him to the Hartford Fire Department pickup to be conveyed to the flight for life loading zone.



Offense/Incident Report

SP4500 8/2003 s. 110.07(2m) Wis. Stats.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of State Patrol

CASE # 053040

Evidence Control Number : None

Report Supplement

NO	Property Report/Receipt
NO	Witness / Victim
NO	Subject Management
NO	Juvenile
NO	Domestic Violence
NO	Video Taped
NO	Photos Taken
Attachments	

6/15/2017	Yes
(Report Date)	(On Duty)
Simpson R	1814
(Reporting Officer Name)	(WSP #)
Rembert C	6/27/2017
(Reviewed By)	(Review Date)



Offense/Incident Report

SP4500 8/2003 s. 110.07(2m) Wis. Stats.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of State Patrol

Case/CFS/RD 000053-0480

Form Status: Reviewed

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Court Date	Court Time	Traffic Charges	Optional Court Memo						
		No	00005300480						

#	Offense/Incident	Section #	Bond Amount	Date	Time
1	Assist Other Agency - -	Assist Other Agency	\$0.00	6/15/2017	11:15 AM

Offender/Subject - Last, First, Middle, Address, City, ST, Zip Code							Alias		
							SSN	Area Code - Telephone #	
							FBI #	CIB #	
Sex	Race	Height	Weight	Hair	Eyes	Birth Date	Driver License #	State	Expires
Custody No		Custody Location					Referred To		

Offense Location									
City/Town/Village							County WASHINGTON - 66		

Veh. Year	Make	Type	Body Style	Color	VIN	Plate #	Plate Type	State
Vehicle Location								

Narrative

On the above date and time I (Daniel Breeser) was working Post 3 which is located on County Highway O at the main bus loop. At this time I observed the blimp falling to the ground. It appeared to be collapsing. I observed some flames coming from the blimp also. I also observed what appeared to be a person falling alongside the blimp. Due to the distance away I could not see any more details than that.

CFS # 000053-0480



Offense/Incident Report

SP4500 8/2003 s. 110.07(2m) Wis. Stats.

Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Division of State Patrol

Case/CFS/RD 000053-0480

Form Status: Reviewed

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Evidence Control Number : None

Report Supplement

NO	Property Report/Receipt
NO	Witness / Victim
NO	Subject Management
NO	Juvenile
NO	Domestic Violence
NO	Video Taped
NO	Photos Taken

6/15/2017

Yes

(Report Date)

(On Duty)

Breeser D

2217

(Reporting Officer Name)

(WSP #)

Erdmann T

6/15/2017

(Reviewed By)

(Review Date)

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