

Sheriff's Department

PERRY COUNTY, MISSOURI

GARY J. SCHAAF

SHERIFF

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1. On Saturday, July 1, 2017, at approximately 2039 hours, Tim Haertling, [REDACTED], called the Perry County Sheriff's Office saying he thought he saw a helicopter crash on Highway C near PCR 234. At approximately 2057 hours, I arrived at the above location. I observed a helicopter in a bean field approximately 200 yards off of Highway C, east of PCR 234. I observed the flight crew approximately 75 yards from the helicopter, near a corn field. I made contact with the flight crew and asked who the pilot was. The pilot was identified by word of mouth as Ivan D. Thomas, and the rest of the flight crew was identified by word of mouth as Erin C. Juenger, Trisha J. Taetz, Jennifer L. Weffelmeyer and the patient was identified as Davarea Bird. I asked if anyone was injured, which I was told one flight crew member was complaining of neck and back injury.
2. I observed the helicopter laying on its right side. I spoke with Thomas, which he said he was not going to talk to me, until he speaks with his lawyer. I asked Thomas if the master switch to the fuel pump was turned off, which he said yes. Thomas said the tank is venting. I observed fuel coming out of the bottom of the helicopter. I was advised by the flight crew the patient would not be flown from the scene. Perry County Ambulance Service arrived and transported the flight crew and the patient to the Perry County Memorial Hospital.
3. At approximately 2129 hours, I received a call from David Tull [REDACTED], with the St. Louis (FAA) Federal Aviation Administration asking for the tail number on the helicopter, which was N238BK. Tull informed me I would be receiving a call from the (NTSB) National Transportation Safety Board. At approximately 2248 hours, I received a call from Mike Folkerts [REDACTED], with the (NTSB) informing me the scene would need to be secured until the FAA released the helicopter to Air Methods Corporation, the owner the helicopter.
4. On Sunday July 2, 2017, at approximately 0040 hours, I received a call from Harvinder Pujji with the (FAA), Principal Operations Inspector, who informed me he would be at the crash scene at approximately 0800 hours. At approximately 0805 hours, Pujji arrived, conducted his investigation and at approximately 1100 hours, the helicopter was released to Air Methods Corporation. I was contacted by Mike Stacey Regional Maintenance Director of Air Methods Corporation, who informed me the scene would need to be secured until the helicopter had been removed.