

Silliman James

From: [REDACTED] v
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 1:54 PM
To: Silliman James
Subject: FW: Manomen plane crash - Zarling Statement

Here is a statement from Mr. Zarling

JR Vigdal

Aviation Safety Inspector
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Flight Standards District Office
4620 Amber Valley Parkway
Fargo, ND 58104-8612

From: Zarling, Douglas (DOT) [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2017 1:38 PM
To: Vigdal, Jeffrey (FAA)
Subject: Manomen plane crash

Driving north on T.H. 59 at approx.. 8:00 pm I noticed a plane that must of just taken off from the airport. The plane seemed to be going slow and wasn't climbing. I was following behind watching him, then he banked to the right and went down pretty much nose first. I took the gravel road to the site. I called 911 before going to the plane. Walking up to the plane I heard the pilot yelling for help. Went around the right side of the plane and saw the pilot belted in. talked to him (he seemed pretty coherent)I noticed gas leaking near the motor. I decided we better get him out of the plane. My fellow worker Eric Fitzgearld and I unbuckled him and dragged him away from the plane. Another man and woman came to the site and talked with him, they seemed to know him. The man shut off the gas in the plane. Waited until the police and ambulance came. Talked to the police and he said we could leave.

Silliman James

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2017 7:27 AM
To: Silliman James
Subject: FW: Mahnomen plane crash - Fitzgerald Statement

Another witness statement

JR Vigdal
Aviation Safety Inspector
[REDACTED]

Flight Standards District Office
4620 Amber Valley Parkway
Fargo, ND 58104-8612

-----Original Message-----

From: Erik Fitzgerald [mailto:f[REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2017 6:49 AM
To: Vigdal, Jeffrey (FAA)
Subject: Mahnomen plane crash

Good Morning Jeff,

Erik Fitzgerald here with a recap of what I saw. Was heading north of Highway 59 on Tuesday night just before 8 pm. Noticed a small plane flying low to the ground so I continued to watch it. As I watched the plane which was heading North as well, the pilot took a quick turn towards the highway (to his left) and crashed into the ground. It looked as if he went into the ground nose and left wing (right side of the plane from where I was looking) first. My boss and I then stopped and called 911 right away. As we moved through the field the pilot heard my boss talking to dispatch. He then shouted "help me, I'm hurt, help me". We then told him to stay still and that we were on our way to him. The plane was leaking fuel out of the bottom of the nose. We asked the pilot if his back and neck were okay because we wanted to get him away from the plane. He said yes that he was fine. We then unstrapped the pilot from his plane. He had a seatbelt around his waist and belts over his shoulders. He was bleeding from the head and both his legs were broken. My boss then pulled him from the plane while I held the right wing up so that Doug could get underneath and get the pilot out. After the pilot was out of the cockpit and on the field, Doug grabbed the pilot by one arm and I grabbed the other and we drug him away from the plane. Then we sat with the pilot until authorities and EMT arrived. A few locals came out to help as well after we had the pilot away from his plane. One man knew how to shut the plane down so he did so. After that first responders showed up and we left the scene after talking to law enforcement.

Let me know if you would like me to try to be more specific but this is everything that I can remember from what I saw that night.

Thanks,

Erik

Sent from my iPhone