

Lindberg Joshua

From: Richards Michael
Sent: Thursday, December 28, 2017 11:08 AM
To: Lindberg Joshua
Cc: Helson David; Olvis Charles
Subject: CEN18FA061 wx

Mr. Lindberg,

This considers an accident time of 0715 EST (1215Z) on 24 December 2017 and an accident location of 27.945556, - 81.772222 (at Bartow Municipal Airport [BOW] in Bartow, Florida).

- BOW was equipped with an AWOS that at 0715 EST reported a calm wind, visibility of less than 1/4 mile, fog, and an overcast ceiling at 300' agl. Temperature was reported as 12°C but dew point temperature was missing. These reports were automated and visibility and ceiling observations would have been based solely on the AWOS instruments (no human augmentation involved). There was a gap in BOW AWOS reporting for unknown reasons between 0715 and 1735 EST on the accident day.

*METAR KBOW 241135Z AUTO 00000KT M1/4SM FG OVC003 13/ A3017 RMK AO2=
METAR KBOW 241155Z AUTO 00000KT M1/4SM FG OVC003 13/ A3018 RMK AO2=
METAR KBOW 241215Z AUTO 00000KT M1/4SM FG OVC003 12/ A3018 RMK AO2=*

- An Area Forecast Discussion was issued for the region by the NWS office in Tampa Bay that identified widespread shallow fog. The indication that this fog was shallow is somewhat supported by GOES-16 observations and a model sound for the region.

Widespread IFR or lower visibility in shallow fog is now in place from KSRQ to KTPA/KPIE/KLAL. Passing cirrus may cause visibility to bounce up and down at times, but the potential for periods of very low visibility will continue at these terminals through the middle morning hours. Will be watching for the possible sea-fog later today for KSRQ/KPIE/KTPA as well...however confidence is low enough to keep significant impacts out of the forecast. Further south to KPGD and Fort Myers, conditions are running VFR/MVFR as we approach sunrise. A period of IFR is possible just after sunrise at any of these terminals, but the very shallow nature of any fog will keep durations short and allow a return to VFR by 14Z. Prevailing VFR will then be in the forecast for the remainder of the day.

- An NWS Dense Fog Advisory was in effect for Polk County.

- A Center Weather Advisory issued by the CWSU at the Miami ARTCC was in effect for the accident area and advised of ceilings below 500' agl and visibilities below 1 statute mile in fog and mist.

- There was an AIRMET for IFR conditions in effect for the accident location

- No SIGMETs

- There were no applicable PIREPs.

- Nothing pertinent on the wx radar.

- According to the US Naval Observatory, civil twilight began about 0650 EST and sunrise occurred about 0716 EST. There was no moon.

Mike Richards
Aviation Safety Investigator - Senior Meteorologist
Operational Factors Division
National Transportation Safety Board

