

RE: Airport Manager's Report

Aircraft: PA32R-300/N4922K

Date of Accident: Thursday, February 21, 2019

Time of Accident: 2008 EST

Location: 1.5 SM east of RWY GSH 27 (W85.757568 N41.527923)

Weather Conditions: Winds 270 at 07 knots – Sky clear- Visibility greater than 6 miles

Description:

At approximately 2010 I received a call from 911 dispatch of an aircraft crash located east of the airport between CR 31 and CR 35, north of CR 42. Dispatch reported it was a 4 place single engine aircraft. One minute later Chief [REDACTED] of the GFD called and said he had units responding with support from Elkhart and Clinton Twp and advised Chief Mike Happer would be in charge.

[REDACTED] with the Clinton Twp Fire Department called at approximately 2020 and asked if I could tell them how many people were on board. He confirmed one person was deceased in the pilot seat and they were looking for others in the field. He also reported high voltage lines were down and that the area was very dangerous.

I called SBN ATC and spoke to the supervisor to try to find out if the aircraft had filed an IFR flight plan so I could determine the number of persons on board. The supervisor said they were talking to N4922K and that he was practicing approaches under VFR conditions and could not tell me how many persons were on board. He said the aircraft had conducted the GPS RNAV 09 approach and was circling to land RWY 27.

I went to the scene with patrolman [REDACTED] with the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department. It was there I met [REDACTED] who said he witnessed the crash. I introduced [REDACTED] to Sheriff [REDACTED] and informed the Sheriff that [REDACTED] would be an important part of the investigation.

[REDACTED] informed me that he was driving west on CR 42 near CR 35 when he observed an airplane east bound relatively low with three bright lights. He saw the airplane turn north and immediately turned left like it was going back to the airport and could only see the light "on top" and within a second or two it "nosedived" straight to the ground. He saw sparks but did not actually see the airplane go through the power lines. Nor did he see the aircraft impact the ground, however he did see a "bright glow" north of CR 42 near CR 33.

Soon thereafter he saw emergency lights and after picking up his daughter from Fairfield High School he stopped at the accident scene to report what he had seen.

Signed,

*[REDACTED]
Airport Manager*