

July 26, 2019

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RE: Events of July 24, 2019

I was at the new hangar talking to the steel contractor about finishing up their phase of the job. While standing at the hangar opening, I noticed an airplane flying parallel to the long run way from South to North, 03 to 21. It looked like they were looking at the wind socks on the north end of 21. The plane did a short-left base to the runway. This approach looked odd, so I continued to watch the plane. I thought they were going to do a tight turn and land on the long runway. As the plane turned left, it looked like the plane would level out and come in for a landing. At the end of the turn, the plane sharply nosed straight down and did not pull up. I assumed they had crashed on runway 21.

At 2:25 p.m., I had the contractor call 911, Chadron Dispatch, to tell them we had a plane crash on the north end of Chadron airport runway 21. My next call was to City Manager, Greg Yanker, to notify him we had a downed aircraft. At 2:27 p.m., I contacted Scott Schremmer to issue a notam to close the airport because of a downed aircraft.

I went to the west gate to get it open for emergency responders. I escorted the Chadron Police and Fire Departments to the north end of runway 21. Not finding the aircraft on the airport, we opened the north gate and started to look North on both sides of the river. The plane was located on the NW side of the river. CVFD Assistant Chief Pat O'Brien and I were first on scene. We secured the area for fire and rescue.

Between 2:30 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. we notified the NTSB of the possible downed aircraft.

The Dawes County Sheriff's Department was next on scene, Incident Command was turned over to their jurisdiction.

[REDACTED]
Milo Rust
Public Works Director
City of Chadron