

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION
SANGAMON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CASE NO: SG20-2951
DATE: January 29, 2020

CLASSIFICATION: Crash Investigation

COMPLAINANT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

Follow-up Interview
Lyndsey Martin and Jim Martin
[REDACTED]
Springfield, Illinois
[REDACTED]

The following narrative, not verbatim nor in its entirety, is a summary of my investigations, observations and actions.

On January 28, 2020 at approximately 1504 hours the Sheriff's Office received multiple reports of a possible airplane crash. Responding units located the crash site in the backyard of [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois.

On January 29, 2020, I, Lieutenant Audie Prange, was contacted by National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Air Safety Investigator Todd Fox. Fox was assigned to investigate the plane crash that occurred on January 28 and requested assistance from the Sheriff's Office. At approximately 1115 hours Detective Amie Robinson, Detective Garrett Harney, and I met with Fox at the crash site. Fox asked the Sheriff's Office to locate witnesses to the incident and obtain statements. Fox also requested we obtain any nearby security camera footage of the crash. I compiled a list of possible witnesses and issued assignments to Det. Harney and Det. Robinson. See their supplemental reports for further.

At approximately 1140 hours I met with Lyndsey and Jim Martin at their home, [REDACTED]. (The home is approximately one half mile south of the plane crash.) At the time of the crash, Lyndsey, who runs a business from the home, was sitting at the dining room table paying bills. (The dining room has a large wall of windows that faces north, towards the crash site. From the dining room Lyndsey had a clear, almost unobstructed view of the crash.)

Lyndsey stated the airplane's engine noise first drew her attention. It is not uncommon for Lyndsey to hear airplanes near her house but in this instance the airplane's noise was louder than normal because of the airplane's low altitude. When Lyndsey looked up, she saw the airplane coming from the north, from the direction of Illinois State Route 29. She initially thought the airplane was a crop-duster because it was flying so low.

Lyndsey said the airplane's wings were "canted" and she could see both wings and the top of the airplane. Lyndsey's description and hand movement indicated she believed the airplane's left wing was pointed fully or partially toward the ground. Lyndsey stated the airplane continued to descend and she briefly lost sight of it. She then heard and saw an explosion from the crash site.

Lyndsey immediately called her husband Jim, who works at the nearby Springfield City Water, Light, and Power (CWLP) Power Plant. Jim was driving home from work and drove in the direction of the smoke. Jim and witness (Later identified as David Stroh) located the crash behind [REDACTED]. Jim said the wreckage was on fire when he arrived and there were no first responders on scene. Jim stated the plane "blew up" shortly after he arrived on scene. Due to the heat and flames, Jim did not approach the airplane. Once first responders arrived on scene, Jim left and went to his residence.

After calling Jim, Lyndsey called Rochester Police Department and reported she believed she witnesses a plane crash. Lyndsey had no additional information to offer and the interview was concluded. End of report.

Report by: Lt. Audie Prange # [REDACTED]

Approved by: Capt. R. Vose # [REDACTED]

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SANGAMON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CASE NO: SG20-2951
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CLASSIFICATION: Crash Investigation

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ADDRESS:

PHONE:

Follow-up Interview

David R. Stroh

[REDACTED]
Springfield, Illinois
[REDACTED]

The following narrative, not verbatim nor in its entirety, is a summary of my investigations, observations and actions.

On January 28, 2020 at approximately 1504 hours the Sheriff's Office received multiple reports of a possible airplane crash. Responding units located the crash site in the backyard of [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois.

On January 29, 2020, I, Lieutenant Audie Prange, was contacted by National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Air Safety Investigator Todd Fox. Fox was assigned to investigate the plane crash that occurred on January 28 and requested assistance from the Sheriff's Office. At approximately 1115 hours Detective Amie Robinson, Detective Garrett Harney, and I met with Fox at the crash site. Fox asked the Sheriff's Office to locate witnesses to the incident and obtain statements. Fox also requested we obtain any nearby security camera footage of the crash. I compiled a list of possible witnesses and issued assignments to Det. Harney and Det. Robinson. See their supplemental reports for further.

At approximately 1304 hours I met with David Stroh at his residence. Stroh stated he was driving north on Illinois State Route 29, approximately one half mile south of Hilltop Road, when he saw an airplane drop out of the clouds. The airplane was traveling south, almost following the path of Route 29. Stroh initially thought the airplane belonged to the Illinois State Police and was doing aerial radar patrol because of how low it was.

Stroh said shortly after he saw the airplane, it "banked" hard to the right. The right hand turn was hard enough that Stroh noticed the wing dip toward the ground. Stroh saw that both engines were running and the airplane continued in a south-west direction and was dropping altitude quickly. Stroh said the airplane's descent was similar to a crop-duster plane's movements. The airplane continued to descend until Stroh lost sight of it. Stroh then noticed a "mushroom cloud" of smoke and followed the smoke down Hilltop Road then down White Timber Road. Stroh followed the smoke to the crash site. Stroh got out of his vehicle at the crash site and started to approach on foot. A woman from inside the

house came out and asked Stroh if the wreckage was an airplane. Stroh said it was and continued to approach on foot but the airplane exploded. Stroh, now accompanied by a Rochester Police Officer, tried to get to the wreckage by opening a gate on the east side of the property. He and the Rochester Officer could see two people lying partially in the wreckage and they tried yelling to the individuals. They received no answer from the wreckage.

After more first responders began to arrive, Stroh returned to his vehicle and left the scene. Stroh repeated his earlier statement that the airplane's low altitude immediately caught his attention. Stroh stated the vehicle traveling north in the lane next to him even hit their breaks for fear the airplane was going to land on the highway. Stroh said the airplane's altitude, coupled with its quick descent, caused him concern for the pilot's and occupant's safety.

Stroh had nothing more to add and the interview was concluded. End of report.

Report by: Lt. Audie Prange # [REDACTED]

Approved by: Capt. R. Vose # [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION
SANGAMON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CASE NO. SG20-2951
DATE: 01/29/2020

CLASSIFICATION:

COMPLAINANT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

Phone Interview
Allen B. Anselm

Taylorville, IL 62568

The following narrative, not verbatim nor in its entirety, is a summary of my investigations, observations and actions.

On January 29, 2020 at 1153 hours, I, Detective Robinson contacted Allen B. Anselm by phone at [REDACTED].

I introduced myself and advised Anselm that I was told he may have information for the Sheriff's Office regarding the plane crash incident from yesterday. Anselm agreed.

Anselm reported he was on his way home, to Taylorville, and traveling on Rt. 29, between Springfield and Rochester. Anselm said he saw the plane come across Rt. 29. He said it looked "odd" and noticed it was coming down at a steep angle. Anselm estimated the angle to be 20-30 degrees and about 300 feet off the ground. He said the plane crossed Rt. 29 and went over a ridge where he could no longer see it. Shortly after it disappeared he saw black smoke.

Anselm said he followed the smoke and he arrived before the first responders. He said he looked for people to help but he didn't see anyone. Anselm observed the tail of the plane stating it was still visible but the plane was on fire. He believed if anyone was inside they were already deceased due to how it looked. Once the fire department showed up he left.

I thanked Anselm for his time today.

Report by: Detective Robinson # [REDACTED]

Approved by: Lt. Audie Prange # [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION
SANGAMON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CASE NO: SG20-2951
DATE: February 6, 2020

CLASSIFICATION: Crash Investigation

COMPLAINANT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

Follow-up Interview

Tyler A. Sitko

[REDACTED]
Rochester, Illinois
[REDACTED]

The following narrative, not verbatim nor in its entirety, is a summary of my investigations, observations and actions.

On January 28, 2020 at approximately 1504 hours the Sheriff's Office received multiple reports of a possible airplane crash. Responding units located the crash site in the backyard of [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois.

On January 29, 2020, I, Lieutenant Audie Prange, was contacted by National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Air Safety Investigator Todd Fox. Fox was assigned to investigate the plane crash that occurred on January 28 and requested assistance from the Sheriff's Office. Fox asked the Sheriff's Office to locate witnesses to the incident and obtain statements.

On February 5, 2020 I received a forwarded email from Sheriff Jack Campbell. Sheriff Campbell received the email from Springfield Fire Department Chief Allen Reyne. Chief Reyne's email stated an off-duty Springfield Firefighter, Tyler Sitko, lives near the crash site and saw the plane shortly before it crashed.

On February 6, 2020 at approximately 1212 hours I met with Sitko in the Investigations Division conference room at the Sheriff's Office. Sitko provided a verbal statement on his observations.

Sitko arrived at his residence at approximately 1500 hours on January 28, 2020. He parked in his driveway and walked around the back of his truck. Sitko, who was facing west towards the front of his house, heard "loud engine noise" from an airplane to his north. Sitko said the engine was not sputtering nor did it sound like it was having problems. Sitko believed the noise drew his attention because of the plane's low altitude. Sitko looked in the direction of the noise and believed the plane was north of Rochester Road/West Main Street and east of White Timber. Sitko said the plane's "nose was up." I asked Sitko to elaborate, and he stated the plane's "nose was pitched up" but it was flying

in a straight, consistent path. Sitko thought, because of the plane's direction and low altitude, that it was headed for the airport.

Sitko stated the plane remained in the same position, with the nose slightly up, for 15-20 seconds before he lost sight of it. Sitko then went inside and did not see, or hear, the plane crash. Sitko was unaware of the plane crash until approximately 1545 hours when people started to call and text him. Sitko went outside after learning of the crash and did not see any fire or smoke coming from that direction.

Sitko had no other information about the incident and the interview was concluded. End of report.

Report by: Lt. Audie Prange # [REDACTED]

Approved by: Capt. R. Vose # [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION
SANGAMON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CASE NO. SG20-2951
DATE: 1-29-2020

CLASSIFICATION: Crash Investigation

COMPLAINANT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

The following narrative, not verbatim nor in its entirety, is a summary of my investigations, observations and actions.

On January 29, 2020 I, Detective Garrett Harney ([REDACTED]), assisted the National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) with a crash investigation. The crash occurred on January 28, 2020 around 1503 hours near the property of [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois. The plane involved in the crash was a Piper Aerostar (twin-piston) plane with the tail number N6971R.

NTSA Investigators requested Sangamon County Sheriff's Office Detectives to interview witnesses and gather video evidence of the incident.

Sgt. Detective Travis Dalby forwarded me a website link on my department issued iPhone Xr to view Nest video from [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois. I was able to download the video from the Nest website link. I later copied the video on a DVD for evidence.

Around 1120 hours, I made contact with Theresa Ferguson by phone at [REDACTED]. Theresa said she was at the Rochester Park ([REDACTED], Rochester, Illinois) on January 28, 2020 around 1500 hours. This was directly to the East of where the plane reportedly landed. Theresa said at 1503 hours, she heard a low flying plane to her West. The wings of the plane appeared to be dipping back and forth. The plane went over a tree line and out of her sight. She believed the engine stopped then she heard a loud "Boom Boom" noise. Black smoke began to bellow up into the air shortly after. Theresa said she knew what time it happened (1503 hours) because she checked her cell phone's clock right after she heard the "Boom".

Around 1135 hours, I made contact with Lawrence Hutson at [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois. Lawrence said he wasn't home during the incident but his Ring doorbell camera picked up a small portion of the crash. He forwarded me a copy of the video to my department issued iPhone Xr. I later copied the video on a DVD for evidence.

Around 1200 hours, I made contact with Zachary Bell by phone [REDACTED]. Zachary said he had video of the plane going down. The video didn't show anything because of the direction it was pointing, however, the audio from the video did provide noises from the plane before and during the incident. Zachary said he wouldn't be available to meet

with Detectives until after 1700 hours. I told Zachary I would meet with him later to get the video for evidence.

I secured both DVD's containing video into evidence.

End of report.

Report by: Detective Garrett W. Harney # [REDACTED]

Approved by: Lt. Audie Prange # [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION SECTION
SANGAMON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CASE NO. SG20-2951
DATE: 1-30-2020

CLASSIFICATION: Crash Investigation

COMPLAINANT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

The following narrative, not verbatim nor in its entirety, is a summary of my investigations, observations and actions.

On January 29, 2020 around 15:52, I, Detective Garrett Harney ([REDACTED]), emailed National Transport and Safety Authority (NTSA) Investigator Todd Fox a copy of the Nest security video recovered from [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois.

At approximately 1730 hours, I met with Zachary Bell at [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois. This residence is about 0.5 mile to the south of the crash site. Zachary said he had a security camera inside of a screened in porch on the west side of his residence. The video didn't show the plane but it was able to pick up the audio of the plane's engine.

I followed Zachary to the back of his residence. He pulled out a small SD card from the back of the camera. I told Zachary I would return the card back to him after I was able to copy the video to a DVD for evidence. Zachary mentioned the timestamp on the video was one hour ahead due to the device not updating to daylight savings time (i.e. 15:00 would show a timestamp of 16:00). The audio of the plane crash was at 16:03 timestamp.

Using my department issued laptop computer, I inserted the SD card into the SD card reader. I copied video from 14:00-15:59 (15:00-16:59 timestamp) to a department issued portable USB device. The video was in 1-minute individual clips organized by each minute (16:01, 16:02, 16:03).

On January 30, 2020 I copied the video from the portable USB device on a DVD for evidence. I emailed Investigator Foxx a copy of the 1-minute clip timestamped at 16:03 (15:03 real time) to help assist with his investigation.

I secured the DVD containing the video into evidence.

End of report.

Report by: Detective Garrett W. Harney # [REDACTED]

Approved by: Lt. Audie Prange # [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

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SANGAMON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CASE NO: SG20-2951
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CLASSIFICATION: Crash Investigation

COMPLAINANT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

Follow-up Interview
Linda Sprinkel

Springfield, Illinois

The following narrative, not verbatim nor in its entirety, is a summary of my investigations, observations and actions.

On January 28, 2020 at approximately 1504 hours the Sheriff's Office received multiple reports of a possible airplane crash. Responding units located the crash site in the backyard of [REDACTED], Springfield, Illinois.

On January 29, 2020, I, Lieutenant Audie Prange, was contacted by National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Air Safety Investigator Todd Fox. Fox was assigned to investigate the plane crash that occurred on January 28 and requested assistance from the Sheriff's Office. At approximately 1115 hours Detective Amie Robinson, Detective Garrett Harney, and I met with Fox at the crash site. Fox asked the Sheriff's Office to locate witnesses to the incident and obtain statements. Fox also requested we obtain any nearby security camera footage of the crash. I compiled a list of possible witnesses and issued assignments to Det. Harney and Det. Robinson. See their supplemental reports for further.

At approximately 1204 hours I met with Linda Sprinkle at her residence. The airplane crash site was located on the north side of Sprinkle's property, approximately 70 feet from her residence.

Sprinkle was sitting in her living room, located on the north-east corner of the residence, when she heard the engine noise of an airplane nearby. Sprinkle, who was on the telephone with her husband, often hears airplanes near the residence and did not pay any attention to the noise. Sprinkle then heard a loud crash from outside her residence. Sprinkle, who was facing away from the crash site, turned around and "mangled debris" on fire. She initially thought it was a piece of farm equipment because there are large farm fields around the residence. Sprinkle, while still on the phone with her husband, went outside and realized the wreckage was that of an airplane. Sprinkle did not approach the wreckage because of the heat and flames from the fire. Sprinkle returned to her residence and called 9-1-1. Sprinkle remained inside while first responders began to

arrive. Sprinkle initially gave a statement to Deputy Ryan Kuntzi on the night of the incident. Sprinkle had no further information and the interview was concluded. End of report.

Report by: Lt. Audie Prange # [REDACTED]

Approved by: Capt. R. Vose # [REDACTED]

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SANGAMON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**CASE NO. SG20-2951
DATE: 01/29/2020**

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PHONE:

Interview
Krista J. Cords
[REDACTED]
Springfield, IL 62712
[REDACTED]

The following narrative, not verbatim nor in its entirety, is a summary of my investigations, observations and actions.

On January 29, 2020 at 1118 hours, I, Detective Robinson met with Krista J. Cords at her residence located at [REDACTED] in Springfield.

I introduced myself and advised Cords I would like to take an additional statement from her regarding the plane crash incident from yesterday. Cords agreed.

Cords said her husband, Ryan K. Williams, was the first person on scene. She said he heard the plane before the crash. Cords said before he stepped outside the house the plane had hit. Cords said that Williams assessed the area but couldn't see anything. He had reported that it was very hot. Cords said she started to run after him but stopped to call the police. She informed me that Williams has photographs however he is not home at this time. Cords advised Williams would be home around 1230 hours and would provide a statement and photographs.

I thanked Cords for her time today and advised her I would return to speak with Williams.

Report by: Detective Robinson # [REDACTED]

Approved by: Lt. Audie Prange # [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

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SANGAMON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

CASE NO. SG20-2951
DATE: 01/29/2020

CLASSIFICATION:

COMPLAINANT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

Interview
Ryan K. Williams
[REDACTED]
Springfield, IL 62712
[REDACTED]

The following narrative, not verbatim nor in its entirety, is a summary of my investigations, observations and actions.

On January 29, 2020 at 1343 hours, I, Detective Robinson met with Ryan K. Williams at his residence located at [REDACTED] in Springfield.

I introduced myself and advised Williams that I had previously spoke to his wife but I would like to take an additional statement from him regarding the plane crash incident from yesterday. Williams agreed.

Williams said he was in bed, located on the second floor of his residence. He heard an engine that was "real loud". Williams looked out the window and saw black smoke. He went downstairs, put on his shoes and coat and ran out the door. Williams said he could see smoke and fire as he walked down the hill. Once he was near the plane he yelled out but did not hear or see anyone. He said it was completely quiet and nobody was around. Williams said there was a big explosion and then it "really caught on fire".

Williams said he took photographs in case they would be helpful. He agreed to share the photographs and sent five photographs and one video to my department issued cell phone. I emailed them to Sgt. Danes and Detective McMasters with the Sheriff's Office to have them uploaded.

Williams explained the video was taken at 1508 hours (on 01/28/2020) and the photographs of the plane followed. The photograph of the smoke, taken from the house, was taken at 1518 hours by his son.

I thanked Williams for his time today and encouraged him to call if he had any additional information.

Report by: Detective Robinson # [REDACTED]

Approved by: Lt. Audie Prange # [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

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SANGAMON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

**CASE NO. SG20-2951
DATE: 01/29/2020**

CLASSIFICATION:

COMPLAINANT:

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

Interview
Todd W. Southard
[REDACTED]
Springfield, IL 62712
[REDACTED]

The following narrative, not verbatim nor in its entirety, is a summary of my investigations, observations and actions.

On January 29, 2020 at 1136 hours, I, Detective Robinson met with Todd W. Southard at his residence located at [REDACTED] in Springfield.

I introduced myself and advised Southard that I would like to take an additional statement from him regarding the plane crash incident from yesterday. Southard agreed.

Southard said he was on his way home and driving on Oak View when he saw "a little bit of smoke". He said it was about 1510 hours when he pulled into his driveway. Southard said he checked the mail and took the garbage cans inside. As he went inside he heard a "huge boom". Southard looked out his back window and saw a little bit of fire.

Southard said he took photographs from his residence and agreed to send them to my department issued cell phone however the photographs are blurry and do not appear to have any evidentiary value. They appear to have been taken after first responders and the media were on scene.

I thanked Southard for his time today.

Report by: Detective Robinson # [REDACTED]

Approved by: Lt. Audie Prange # [REDACTED]