

Narrative:

Investigation Narrative

On July 24, 2020 at approximately 1:16 p.m., while on duty with the Morgan County Sheriff's Office, Dispatch advised of a possible aircraft down at [REDACTED]. I, Deputy Brighton Sichting, and Deputy Nicholas Blackard, Officer Walter Stuart, and Chief Deputy Terry Keith, marked en route.

Upon my arrival, I did locate numerous Fire Personnel at the back of the property at [REDACTED]. I observed what appeared to be a aircraft at the back portion of the property, just inside a cornfield.

I did make contact with Fire Personnel, who advised that the pilot of the helicopter was removed from the aircraft and was currently in the ambulance.

I did get into the ambulance, in an attempt to gather information from the owner. I did observe a male laying on the stretcher, and was advised by the Medics that he had 90% burns and I would be unable to give a statement from him at that point in time.

Deputy Blackard arrived on scene, and I did advise Deputy Blackard to make contact with the individuals at the residence and get statements on what had occurred.

The pilot of the aircraft was identified as being Gerald Goldsberry, DOB: [REDACTED]. His wife, Sylvia Goldsberry, DOB: [REDACTED], advised that Gerald was working on Brent Drake's Brantley B2B helicopter and was performing an annual test on the aircraft. She advised that he was taking it for a test flight. Sylvia advised that when he began to lift off the ground, it sounded as if the helicopter was missing. It was approximately 75 to 100 feet off the ground, when the aircraft crashed and immediately caught fire.

We were also advised by individuals on scene, that Brent Drake was having issues with this aircraft, stating that it had been doing a dutch roll.

I did speak with Brent Drake, [REDACTED] who did advised that it was, indeed, his aircraft, and he was having Gerald Goldsberry work on it.

William Myrtle, DOB: [REDACTED], [REDACTED] also witnessed the aircraft crash. He stated that he ran to the crash site and removed Gerald from the burning helicopter.

I did speak with Fire Personnel on scene, who advised that they used approximately 350 gallons of water to put the fire out, and no foam.

Brown Township Medic #2747 was the first Medic on scene. LifeLine did land at the accident site and transported Gerald Goldsberry to Eskenazi Hospital, where he received medical treatment.

Deputy Blackard and I did take photographs of the scene.