

Derrick Anderson
St. Cloud Fire Dept.
[REDACTED]

On Tuesday, September 1st, 2020, I was Acting Captain on Engine 3. At 1725 hrs. Engine 3 was dispatched for a "Plane Crash" at the St. Cloud Airport - [REDACTED] St Cloud, MN 56304. The dispatch narrative stated there was a report of an unknown sized aircraft with an unknown number of passengers having difficulty maintaining altitude arriving in 10 minutes. I requested that Battalion 1 and Tower 1 be assigned to the call as well. Stearns County Dispatch contacted Benton County, who dispatched Sauk Rapids, Clear Lake and Foley Fire Departments as mutual aid.

Engine 3 arrived on scene at 1733 hrs. Engine 3 and ARFF 2 proceeded to the ramp at which time the St. Cloud Tower notified us that the small single prop aircraft was safely on the ground and taxiing to the General Aviation Ramp. Engine 3 crew spoke with the pilot, Thomas Borum who seemed surprised to see us there. Borum stated that he was just trying to make his way to Bemidji and was not experiencing any problems. I cancelled all other incoming units to the airport.

I called to the St. Cloud Control Tower to confirm that we had the correct aircraft. St. Cloud Tower confirmed we had the correct aircraft and stated there was some miscommunication between St. Cloud Tower and Stearns County Dispatch. St. Cloud Tower told Dispatch that it was an "Alert 1" aircraft and only requested a St. Cloud Police Officer to respond to speak with Borum and have him contact Minneapolis Center.

Engine 3 crew went to the General Aviation Building to get some information from Borum. At that time, we asked Borum if he was ok or required any medical attention. Borum denied any medical attention, he was alert and oriented to his name, phone number, his current location, and his destination.

Per a request from Dan Roller [REDACTED] with Minneapolis Air Route Traffic Control Center (Minneapolis Center), I called to give an update on the situation. Upon reaching Roller by phone, Borum stepped outside to ask if he was free to go. I put Borum on the phone to speak with Roller, they had a conversation for several minutes. Borum handed the phone back to me and returned to the building.

Roller advised me that this incident started when they were communicating with Borum via radio and Borum sounded disoriented while cruising at 12,000 ft. Roller advised that Borum would be finishing his flight and they would monitor his location during the duration of his flight.

Engine 3 cleared the airport and returned to quarters at 1759 hrs.