

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: CROP DUSTER CRASH VPSO COMPLAINT NUMBER 24-0002987
Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:20:39 PM

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On April 2nd, 2024, at approximately 1310 hours, Deputies were dispatched to LA335/Joe Rd. for a reported aircraft crash.

Upon arrival, at approximately 1314 hours, Deputies observed a single agricultural aircraft, upside down in a flooded crawfish pond. The pilot, later identified as Daniel Durke ([REDACTED]) was not injured in the crash. He refused medical treatment on scene.

Mr. Durke stated he had landed at a grass airstrip, located on Liberty Farm Rd, and had topped off with a load of rice. He stated he performed a normal take off, with all engine instruments indicating normal operation. He stated he reached an altitude of approximately 100 feet, flying north northwest, when the engine lost power and he was forced to make an emergency landing in a crawfish pond. Mr. Durke stated upon impact with the pond, the friction from the landing gear in the water forced the aircraft to flip over, which significantly damaged the airframe. Initial impact also ripped the spreader assembly from the underside of the crop duster.

The engine compartment of the aircraft, a 1984 Ag Cat G164, was partially ripped from the fuselage. The empennage (tail) was also significantly damaged. Photos were obtained and are uploaded into EPR. The aircraft (FAA registration number N75099) is owned by Clay Vincent ([REDACTED]) and Vincent's Flying Service. He was on scene also. Mr. Clay advised he did not recall how many hours the turbine engine had on it since it was last overhauled. He advised his maintenance records were available upon request.

Dispatch contacted the FAA (Baton Rouge FSDO). Cpl. Boeve spoke with a representative from the FAA (Jose Areizaga, [REDACTED]) who was informed of all the above information. He was also supplied with the pilot and owner's information, respectively. The FAA advised they would be contacting the NTSB to discuss a crash investigation. He also advised the wreckage would need to be left, as is, until their arrival on 04/03/2024. He was given the number to Dispatch and advised to contact when they were en route.

The property owner, Mr. Scot Hartman ([REDACTED]) was contacted, and a voicemail was left for him indicating the wreckage would need to be left on scene till the FAA and NTSB's arrival on 04/03/2024. Cpl. Boeve spoke with his father-in-law (Rufus Marceaux, who lives adjacent to the crawfish pond) and advised him of the information regarding the wreckage. Mr. Marceaux advised he was outside and observed the crash. He stated he saw the plane heading north/northwest at a low altitude, with what sounded to him like a struggling engine. He stated the aircraft impacted the crawfish pond, and upon doing so, overturned. He stated

he rushed to assist the pilot, who was already out of the aircraft, when he arrived at the crash scene. Mr. Marceaux declined to submit a written statement.

Deputies concluded their investigation at approximately 1407 hours, and returned to duty.

Nothing further at this time.

Cpl. Kurt Boeve

