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Date: June 21, 2024

Subject: CEN24LA194

Contact: St Martin Parish Sheriff's Office

The following are summaries from St Martin Parish Sheriff's Office regarding the accident in Breaux Bridge, Louisiana involving N122LF.

Deputy Hanzel summary:

I spoke to Taylor who stated that he and his grandfather had taken off from across the field where they have a small runway. He stated that his grandfather had told him not to worry as they had to go under some power lines and would then get up to the correct attitude. Taylor recalls his grandfather saying, "hold on, hold on, hold on" and that was when they crashed. When asked how they crashed, Taylor stated that the wing closest to him had hit a pecan tree and that was when they had struck the ground.

Once the scene was deemed safe, the area was then cleared and secured until FAA Agent Paul Marks arrived on scene to conduct his investigation. Agent Marks was given a complaint card in reference to this report.

Deputy Guidry summary:

On May 11, 2024, I responded to a plane crash. I arrived and observed what appeared to be a single wing plane frame wrapped in canvas, tail number N122LF, crashed in the field. I assisted with scene management and contacted the air tower at Lafayette Regional Airport in addition to officials with NTSB.

I observed Henderson/Cecilia Fire Depts remove the three fuel tanks from the plane due to the tanks leaking fuel. I also obtained the wallet of the passenger, Taylor Newland, out of the canvass storage compartment within the plane and provided it to him.

Nothing else was disturbed to my knowledge. I spoke briefly to Newland who said that there was no indication that there was an issue with the flight or the plane until the pilot, Kenneth Soignier, told him, "It's not good, hang on." Newland indicated that the engine was still running and there were no signs that Soignier was in distress.

Paul Marks with the FAA arrived on scene to assume control of the scene and advised they would take control of the investigation.

Lt. Rigby summary:

Upon arrival at the scene, I observed a fixed-wing aircraft in a nose-down position on the ground in a sheep pasture. I was directed towards the entrance at the rear of the property and then assessed the scene. I observed an aircraft occupant (pilot) unconscious and breathing on the ground near the passenger compartment. This individual was exposed to raw fuel that was dripping from the aircraft. I summoned for assistance in removing this individual from the exposed gas. I did not notice any external injuries to the individual, other than his obviously broken right arm. Sternum rub yielded no response. Deputy Hanzel arrived around this time.

The injured pilot was removed by personnel with Acadian Ambulance for advanced medical treatment. Fire department personnel removed the fuel tanks from the aircraft wreckage and to my knowledge, the wreckage and passenger compartment had not been tampered with otherwise. The passenger on the aircraft was Taylor Newland; he was alert and walking; he displayed superficial injuries on his legs and arms but otherwise appeared uninjured.

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