

Inspector Statement

I received a phone call from Seminole County Sheriff Deputy Steve Farris at 1800 on 5/18/2013 notifying me that there was an aircraft incident located in Geneva, FL at the private airstrip off Jungle Rd. I responded that it was 2 minutes from my home and would go there immediately. Upon my arrival along with Seminole County Fire Rescue and multiple Seminole County Sheriff Deputies I responded to the scene where the aircraft was located in the middle of the grass-airstrip and a female laying on the ground with severe injuries to her left arm. Paramedics immediately treated her injuries and I identified myself as an FAA Inspector and began my investigation with the pilot and witness statements along with law enforcement officers present.

According to the pilot Mr. Dan Shaw, he was giving his niece a ride in his aircraft and briefed her about entering and exiting the aircraft from the rear of the aircraft as he briefed her every time for the past (15) years they have been flying together. The pilot advised they departed the airstrip at approx. 1750 and returned at approx. 1758 and when the passenger departed on the R/H side of aircraft she immediately ran forward into the propeller severing her left-arm. The pilot advised when she exited the aircraft and did not turn right to the rear he yelled "No" but the passenger proceeded to the left. The pilot shut-off the engine and immediately ran to her aide. People immediately ran to help and apply a tourniquet to her upper left-arm to stop the bleeding and 911 was called immediately.

The passenger was airlifted to the local hospital for medical treatment and the police "taped off" the area so we could conduct our investigation.

The pilot advised that he not only briefed his niece about entering and exiting the aircraft but also to the previous two passengers that flew at 1730 to 1740 then another at 1740 to 1750 all who verified and confirmed his briefing and they all followed those instructions. The victim did in fact enter the aircraft from the rear at 1750 but apparently did not remember or got distracted upon exiting the aircraft and went forward in to the prop.

The pilot was very upset and distraught but was very cooperative with presenting his Medical Certificate, Pilot Certificate, Photo ID, Aircraft Registration and Airworthiness Certificate.


Joseph W. Gramzinski
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5/22/2013