

INSPECTOR STATEMENT

Name: Jason M. Arthur
Address: ASO-CAE-FSDO-13
[REDACTED]
West Columbia, SC 29170
Phone: [REDACTED]
Date: April 26, 2021
Description: N90KF Mountain Rest, SC

On April 26, 2021 Inspector Arthur (JMA) was dispatched to the scene of an aircraft accident at Taylor Creek Rd/Highland Hwy in Mountain Rest, SC. Prior to arriving, JMA met with Allen White, Fire Chief of Oconee County. [REDACTED] JMA was then led about 3 miles to the accident scene. (34 51' 15.0"N 83 09' 01.0"W)

Upon arrival, a media related person was on the side of the road. That location was still about 200 yards away from the crash site.

JMA was escorted to the scene which was across a cow field, and into a wood line in a valley. JMA observed the main fuselage and the right wing mostly intact resting in a small creek. The width of the creek was not much wider than the fuselage itself. The left wing was detached and located about 20 yards behind the plane. The empennage with all stab and control surfaces were still about 20-30 feet up in a tree. The cockpit was mostly intact, minus the canopy plexiglass. The engine was still mounted to the firewall, but bent downward. The propeller was wooden and partially intact up to about 1 foot and a half away from the hub. It was partially buried in the water and not able to be further inspected on the scene. No fuel could be observed in the wing that was still attached to the plane, but fuel was present in a header tank that was located behind the right seat of the two place side by side cockpit. All cockpit switch positions were photographed. The engine was noted as being a rotary Rotec engine.

Allen White was interviewed as to what had happened.

He stated that they were dispatched the day prior on 4/25/2021 at 1107hrs to the scene of this accident. They arrived on scene at 1143hrs. They identified the pilot as Jason Gerrick, 45, and the passenger as Cody Lee, 18. White reported that the pilot Gerrick had stated that they had been flying when the engine cutoff. He was ultimately unable to restart it, and crashed shortly after into the trees. He also made the statement that he should have 4 gallons of fuel remaining. White stated that the pilot had chest injuries and the passenger appeared to have a hip injury. He stated that they were both airlifted to Greenville Memorial Hospital.

Upon departing the scene and reaching the Inspectors vehicle, the person who was there for media (unclear if he was associated with any particular outlet, [REDACTED]) was having a heated debate with the land owner (Charles Moxley [REDACTED]) about gaining access to the crash site with his drone. Inspector advised that he had no right to refuse him access with his drone. The land owner was not pleased with this.

JMA called the Greenville Hospital to see if the pilot was able to make a statement. A nurse on duty (Hailey) stated that Mr. Gerrick did not wish to talk and he had retained an attorney.

JMA returned to base.

----End of Statement----

Jason
Michael
Arthur

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Arthur
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