



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Todd Gunther
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: January 15, 2024
Subject: Information Obtained from Doyle Hickman (Pilot's Son)
NTSB Case Number: ERA22FA153

According to Mr. Hickman, his father purchased the airplane about 6 months earlier from a person in Tennessee. He stated the airplane was flown to 1R8 by someone from Tennessee other than his father and placed in a hangar that his father rented from the city of Bay Minette.

He stated his father was having to resolve financial issues with the airplane because his father told him that certain items were not to his satisfaction once the airplane had arrived in Bay Minette.

The pilot's son also stated that his father would often travel from his residence in Mobile, Alabama to the airport in the early morning hours (0001 to 0300) to start the engine and taxi the airplane around the airport, but not fly the airplane. He stated that on occasion he would accompany his father on a late-night trip to the airport.

He stated his father always took his dog with him, but that he would leave the dog in his vehicle while he taxied around the airport.

He stated that his father did not have a current medical but was working on getting it reinstated (current). On the evening of March 10, 2022, His father called him and told him he was going to the airport around 0130 on March 11, 2022. When his father did not return in time for a veterinarian appointment the next morning, he started calling the airport FBO to locate his father.



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Subject: Information Obtained from Bay Minette Fire Department
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According to Chief Mike Minchew, once on-scene, a dog was at the accident site and would not allow anyone to approach the airplane, he called the city animal control unit to restrain the animal before they extricated the pilot. He stated that he didn't recall the pilot wearing a seatbelt.

According to Captain Jeremy Taylor, they extracted the pilot from the airplane after animal control restrained the dog that was on-scene inside the airplane with the pilot. Captain Taylor stated the pilot's shoes were located inside the airplane, but not on the pilot's feet and that he was not wearing a seatbelt.



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Subject: Information Obtained from Bay Minette Police Department
NTSB Case Number: ERA22FA153

According to Sgt. Kendrick Banks of the Bay Minette Police Department, the pilot's vehicle was found parked in front of an open hangar at Bay Minette airport.

The vehicle doors were unlocked, and keys were found in the ignition with the windows were rolled halfway down.

The vehicle was later towed at the request of the police department.



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Subject: Information Obtained from Mack Byrd (Bay Minette Airport Authority)
NTSB Case Number: ERA22FA153

According to Mr. Byrd, the airport lighting system for both runway and taxiway lights were set up to be activated by UNICOM (Common traffic Advisory Frequency) on 122.8 mhz.

Pilots would tune the radio to the UNICOM frequency and click the microphone five times to turn the lights on.

The lights do not have an automatic setting or switch to leave them on overnight or during hours of darkness.