



TOM DECKER
SHERIFF

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
COUNTY OF DIXON

[REDACTED]
PONCA, NEBRASKA 68770
[REDACTED]



On 05/20/2022 I, Tom Decker, was traveling eastbound on Highway 35 in Wayne, Nebraska, when I observed two planes flying near the Wayne Airport. The planes appeared to be following each other, apart by what appeared to 100–150 yards. I lost sight of the first plane and thought it must have landed.

I watched the second plane continue toward the Wayne Airport, to what seemed to be preparation for landing when it appeared to make a hard eastbound turn and then crashed into a corn field, nose first, about 30-40 yards ahead and beside me.

The corn field is on the north side of Highway 35 and just east of the Wayne Airport. When the airplane crashed it landed nose down, bounced, and still ended up with the nose down and the rear of the plane in the air.

I pulled my vehicle to the south side of the road and called 911 at 1848 hrs; this time has been confirmed with Wayne Dispatch on 05/23/2022. I ran over to the airplane and observed the pilot of the plane halfway out of the door. It appeared that the pilot was deceased. At this time a younger male stopped his vehicle and ran over from the highway and asked if he could help. An older female appeared, advised she was a nurse, and also asked if she could assist. The female checked for a pulse, thought she felt a pulse, check again, and announced there was no pulse.

At this point several people from the airshow that was currently happening in Wayne arrived in side-by-sides to help. One of the pilot's friends arrived and asked if he alive, I advised him no. This same subject checked for a pulse, and stated the pilot's name was Tom. A younger male, about 15-16 yrs, came over and then walked back, we were later advised it was the pilot's son.

Wayne County Sheriff's Deputy Claussen arrived on scene and I advised him what had happened. Several Wayne Fire & Rescue first responders and other agencies helping with the air show arrived to assist. I took several photos of the crash sight and asked Wayne fire fighters to put cones around the scene to conserve the sight as best possible for the later investigation.

Wayne Sheriff Jason Dwinell arrived on scene and I advised him of the what had happened. I let Sheriff Dwinell know that I would forward my report and pictures to his office. Amy Miller arrived on scene to pronounce the pilot as deceased. I filled Ms. Miller in, and also advised that I would forward my report and photo to her as well. I spoke with two gentlemen from the Federal Aviation Administration and advised them of the situation. Doug Killingworth from the FAA requested copies of my report and photos and gave me his business card.

After speaking with everyone there, I left the scene of the accident.