

Note to: File

From: John Starace

Date: Thursday, January 19, 2023 @ 1725 Local Time

Subject: Aircraft Crash - Beechcraft Bonanza - A36, Rye Lake Reservoir Peninsula - Two Perished

On this date and time, Westchester ATC notified the Airport Operations Bridge that the Pilot in Command (PIC) of a Beechcraft Bonanza A36 aircraft reporting a low engine oil pressure and declaring an emergency. ATC reported the aircraft is approximately 3.5 miles northeast of Runway 16. Chronological time-line of events and actions as follows:

- 1725L - ATC notifies Airport Operations of a Beechcraft Bonanza A36 reporting low engine oil pressure and on a 3.5 mile approach to Runway 16.
- 1726L - Airport Operations initiates ARFF Emergency Response (**Airport Command #2591** - A. Houghton, **Airport 7** - S. Reid, **Airport 11** - B. Schwager & J. Texidor). WCPD Officers on site at Airport Operations Bridge and Gate #9.
- 1730L - ATC notifies Airport Operations of lost communication with aircraft about 1.5 miles NE of airfield.
- 1730L - Airport Operations declares an ALERT Level 1 Aircraft Emergency Response notification to WCDES 60 Control with all above known information. At this time, there was no know information on passengers and fuel.
- 1730L - Airport Operations **Closed** the Airfield with ATC
- 1731L - Airport Command and Airport 7 & 11 conduct inspections along northern perimeter of the airfield with negative findings.
- 1735L - Airport Command performs full sweep of Runway 16-34 and safety areas.
- 1738L - Search and Rescue Operations underway with WCPD and NYSDEP
- 1743L - Airport Command completes sweeps, Airport Operations **Re-Opens** the Airfield.
- 1750L - NYS Police Aviation Unit helicopter is dispatched to provide search north of airfield
- 1755L - Unified Command occupied with WCPD & WCDES presence.
- 1757L - NYC Aviation Unit helicopter dispatched (coord. with WCPD)
- 1800L - Airport Operations on site at Unified Command
- 1812L - Primary Fire Departments and equipment (West Harrison, Armonk, Purchase and Portchester) on site at Route 120. All Fire Chiefs made decision to remain outside of the airfield for the best coordinated emergency response.
- 1815L - Aircrafts IFR Flight Plan revealed, Aircraft originated from Modern Aviation @ JFK and bound for CGF (Cuyahoga County Airport) in Cleveland, Ohio. Modern dispensed 39.2 gallons of 100LL into aircraft before departure.
- 1816L - Aircraft departed JFK Runway 4L @ 1658L handed off to NY Departure on 120.4 MHZ and remained in communication until aircraft crash at approximately 1728L (audio attached).
- 1825L - NYCDEP launches Marine Unit #14 Boat with 2 Officers to begin Search and Rescue operations, responding to Webers Cove, Loudens Cove and the Dark Hollow areas.
- 1830L - WCDES Commissioner Richard Wishnie and OEM Director Dennis Delborgo on site at Unified Command

- 1830L - Airport Manager, April Gasparri on site at Unified Command - Commenced SITREP with all known assets as follows:
 1. Responding Dive Teams (Sound Beach, Mahopac Falls, & Yorktown)
 2. Unified Mobile Commands (Armonk @ MBIA, Purchase & W. Harrison on RT. 120, EMS staged @ SWISS RE and the Cooney Hill Site)
 3. Search & Rescue Assets (NYCDEP 11 Deployed on foot @ SWISS RE, WCPD "6" Units @ Rt. 120 shoreline)
 4. Marine (NYCDEP #14, WJWW launch ramp available)
 5. Aerial (WCPD - Drone, Putnam Sheriff - FLIR, Rye PD - Flare & Drone) and next SITREP to occur in 30 minutes.
- 1831L - US Coast Guard dispatching Aviation Unit helicopter from CT (coord. with WCPD)
- 1842L - NYS Troopers on site at Unified Command (4 Command Cars at Shoreline abeam RT 120)
- 1845L - Both NYC and Coast Guard Aviation Units cancel operations due to poor weather conditions.
- 1856L - NYCDEP Captain Rosa on site at Unified Command and coordinating communication with Marine Unit #14.
- 1900L - NYCDEP Captain Rosa deploying ESU Units from Upstate NY.
- 1902L - WCDES Coordinating Dive Teams from Sound Beach, Yorktown, and Mahopac Falls, resources mustering at the Purchase Fire Department awaiting directives.
- 1905L - Deputy Airport Manager, Francisco Tejada on site at Unified Command.
- 1906L - Westchester Joint Water Works, Frank Acara on site at Unified Command - Boat Launch at WJWW Pump station available
- 1910L - WCPD Detective O'Meara in coordination with Airport Operations & ATC deployed to the Cooney Hill Rd. Site for Search & Rescue Operations with DRONE.
- 1913L - Unified Command notified that PIC's mobile phone was "Pinged" in the Rye Lake southern Dark Hollow area.
- 1915L - Airport Operations requested the services of the airports USDA Wildlife Biologist Mr. Stephan Beffre to respond for assistance in Search and Rescue operations.
- 1925L - NYCDEP Marine Unit #14 in proximity of Webers Cove - Negative Findings
- 1930L - SITREP as follows:
 1. Current Wx. 10009G18KTS 1SM -RA BR OVC002
 2. WCPD DRONE launching - Cooney Hill Rd. Site
 3. NYCDEP Dispatching additional Marine Unit #16 Boat with 2 Officers to the Great Island and Marine #15 Boat with 2 Officers to the Southern Tip.
 4. Yorktown Dive Commander states 90 minutes for time limit on Search and Rescue Ops.
 5. Team #1 - WCPD ESU, Teams #2 & #3 - NYCDEP ESU, NYSP, MTA & North Castle PD.
 6. WCPD - establishing launch of DRONE supplied by Stamford, CT. PD.
- 1935L - WCPD Officer O'Meara commences DRONE operation from Cooney Hill Rd. Site, Runway 16 aircraft arrivals halted until 1950L. Negative findings.
- 1940L - Additional WCPD DRONE from Harrison PD deployed to the Cooney Hill Rd. Site.
- 1941L - USDA Wildlife Biologist reports at Cooney Hill Rd. Site and assisting NYCDEP on Marine Unit Boat.
- 1945L - NYCDEP ESU team reporting a strong smell of fuel on the Peninsula adjacent to Dark Hollow, additional teams join in performing line searches at this area.
- 2000L - Yorktown Dive Team Commander announces that it has been over 90 minutes since crash and the Search and Rescue has become a "Recovery" effort. Additionally, weather conditions, darkness and lack of familiarity with Reservoir would put all members at too much risk.

- 2005L - NYCDEP Captain Chris Gallagher in conjunction with MTA, NYS Troopers, and North Castle, coordinating a complete line search on foot of the Peninsula from north to south with ESU Teams #2 and #3.
- 2007L - FBI William Slattery on site Unified Command - developing crash site coordinates.
- 2008L - Airport Operations retains POC's - NTSB inspector Josh Young [REDACTED] and FSDO FAA inspector Kelly [REDACTED]
- 2010L - WCPD O'Meara launches 2nd DRONE attempt for Recovery at the Cooney Hill Rd. Site, Runway 16 aircraft arrivals halted until 2022L. Negative findings
- 2015L - Rabbi Isac Lieder notified Unified Command by phone on information of PIC Mr. Baruch Yosef Taub and Passenger Benyamin Chafetz who both are Orthodox Jewish and reside in Cleveland, Ohio. Also shared a group text sent from passenger just before crash (attached).
- 2035L - NYCDEP Captain Chris Gallagher announces that he is pulling back all ESU Teams #2 and #3 resources on line foot searches due to Thunderstorm and Lightning activity, Airport Operations advised that present weather is expected to be on and off until 2300L.
- 2115L - Airport Operations arranges Family and Friends Center at the Hyatt House, notifications made to the Red Cross for assistance.
- 2120L - Airport Operations confirms with JFK's Modern Aviation and using CCTV, that only Two "2" people boarded the aircraft.
- 2125L - WCPD in coordination with Stamford CT PD launches DRONE from the MBIA site until 2145L, Runway 16 aircraft arrival halted. Negative findings.
- 2128L - Family and Friends arriving at Main Terminal, coordinated by WCPD Detective O'Meara, 2nd floor conference room space dedicated.
- 2130L - WCDES and Airport Operations made contact with local Red Cross for assistance with family and friends at both the Main Terminal and the Hyatt House. Available Red Cross reps., were already engaged at emergencies in Yonkers. Follow-up communication to remain.
- 2207L - WCPD in coordination with Stamford CT PD launches DRONE from the MBIA site until 2145L, Runway 16 aircraft arrivals halted. Negative findings.
- 2241L - WCPD ESU Team #1 using "Triggerfish" technology advises Unified Command of a probable location of aircraft crash site on the Peninsula.
- 2255L - WCPD ESU Team #1 confirms Two "2" [REDACTED] laying on the ground and aircraft debris both in the tree canopy and on the ground. Crash site located on the Peninsula between Dark Hollow and Loudens Cove and approximately 600 yards north of the shoreline (attached).
- 2259L - Airport Operations notified NTSB Josh Young of above findings. Mr. Young is expected to arrive at HPN on 1/20/2023 at approximately 1340L.
- 2300L - All notifications made to Westchester County Emergency Contacts.
- 2319L - FBI William Slattery notifies Airport Operations via email of exact Lat. & Long. Coordinates of the aircraft crash site.
- 2329L - Airport Operations notifies FAA FSDO Inspector John Harris of known Coordinates.
- 2333L - NTSB notifies Airport Operations that the Two "2" [REDACTED] can be removed by the Westchester County Medical Examiner (ME). WCDES coordinating.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 20, 2023

- 0315L - ME enroute to Unified Command
- 0442L - ME takes both [REDACTED] into custody, transported to the WC Medical Center
- 0449L - All NYSDep and WCDES resources departed Unified Command
- 0820L - FAA FSDO Inspector John Harris on site at Rye Lake and Rt120, escorted by NYCDEP to crash site.

Wx Obs: 10009KT 2SM -RA BR OVC003 03/02 A2979 UPB31E34 SLP095

PIC:

[REDACTED]
Cleveland Heights, OH [REDACTED]

Passenger:

[REDACTED]
Beachwood, OH [REDACTED]

Aircraft: N19MT - Beechcraft Bonanza - A36

Aircraft Owner: Daviation Inc.

[REDACTED]
Willoughby, OH [REDACTED]

Submitted by,

[REDACTED]
John Starace
Operations Manager