

OFFICIAL SWORN POLICE REPORT

Sebastian Police Department

Incident#: 23-0653

STATION COMPLAINT UCR/Offense Code S4 (Accident)			INCIDENT # 23-0653	
REPORT TYPE Incident Report	RELATED CAD # C23-015757	DESCRIPTION Accident		
DOT #	LOCATION OF OFFENSE (HOUSE NO., STREET NAME) [REDACTED]			
Primary Officer Martinez, Octavio				
HOW RECEIVED E911	WHEN REPORTED 04/07/2023 14:43	TIME OF OCCURRENCE 04/07/2023 14:43	STATUS CODE (01) Refer to Other	STATUS DATE 04/07/2023

NARRATIVES

PRIMARY NARRATIVE

On April 7th 2023 at approximately [REDACTED] Florida from US highway 1 North bound and Main Street in reference to a plane crash. While en-route dispatch advised that there was a single person involved and CPR was in progress.

Upon my arrival I entered through the North gate of the Airport and made my way into the center of the open field where I noticed a crowd of people gathered around a single individual with multiple police and fire rescue units on scene already. To my right I noticed a small aircraft white in color to be on its left side, slightly rolled over with both wings and nose landing gear ripped off from the aircraft. Upon further examination I could determine the aircraft to be a Piper Cherokee model.

The aircrafts information is the following TAIL # N44588 SERIAL # 32-7400050 MODEL # PA-32-260 1974 FIXED WING SINGLE ENGINE 6 SEATS AIRWORTHINESS DATE: 08/16/1974 EXPIRATION DATE: 03/31/2029 AIRWORTHINESS TYPE:STANDARD

I observed the right passenger door to be ripped open and while observing the inside of the plane I could see significant damage to the cockpit. The cockpit was pushed forward with all the avionics hanging outward of its dash. At this time Fire rescue advised everyone who was in close proximity to the downed aircraft to step back since the aircraft was leaking fuel. Fire rescue proceeded to take [REDACTED] pilot to Sebastian Medical Hospital while the on scene Firefighters diluted the leaking fuel with foam.

I proceeded to take statements and attempt to gather witnesses at the scene. In total I gathered 3 witness statements from Steven Parker, Ronald Shaw & Louis Rubin. Ronald advised he saw the whole thing. He explained he was by the Velocity hangar and saw the aircraft start it's decent onto the runway. Ronald advised he was coming in for a normal landing when suddenly the nose of the aircraft pitched up and stalled. The aircraft then tilted left and made contact with the terrain below. Ronald drew a quick diagram of the sequence of events leading to the aircrafts accident.

I began a crime scene log and secured the scene for scene security.

At approximately [REDACTED] Medical notified dispatch that the pilot of the aircraft identified as [REDACTED] was pronounced deceased.

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SUPPLEMENTS

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE		TYPE: Incident			
On Friday April 7, 2023 at approximately 1445 hours I responded to the Sebastian Municipal Airport in reference to a plane crash. Upon arrival on the east side I drove across the runways to access the field where the airplane had crashed. Before I arrived to the crash site an officer advised there was a medic on scene and the pilot had been removed from the plane and was receiving first aid. After parking in an area that would not interfere with the crime scene, I made contact with a witness. Louis Rubin said he as in a hangar to the northwest of the runway when he observed a small plane attempt to land while traveling east but noticed it was going slower than usual. Before touching down the plane "cartwheeled" onto its left side and rolled across the field, where it came to rest. Louis said people from Skydive Sebastian were already running over to help and he was not involved with removing the pilot from the plane. He also said he did not see anything unusual in or around the plane after the crash. I assisted with establishing the crime scene perimeter and then cleared the scene. Later, I responded back to the scene as relief for officers who were there, however none was needed and I cleared. This concludes my involvement in this incident.					
REPORTING OFFICER Smith, Colby	DATE 04/07/2023	TIME 15:33	SUPERVISOR McGruder, Debora Ann	SECURE No	JUVENILE

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SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE

TYPE: Incident

On April 7, 2023 I responded to the Sebastian Airport on a report of an airplane crash. Upon arrival from gate 21, I observed several people along with a white airplane in the grassy field north of the runway. I proceeded to the area and as I exited my vehicle, I observed several people removing a elderly white male from the left front door of the plane. The male was placed approximately thirty feet north of the crash site. Three males, later identified as Dr. Tom DiNardo, Medic Eddie Rivera and Andrew Hahn advised me that they are medical professionals and began assessing and treating the victim. [REDACTED] and they provided oxygen via ambu bag. I went back to check the airplane for other passengers. The fire department arrived and took over treatment of the victim.

I then assisted other officers with moving the crowd back because of a fuel leak and then with securing the scene with crime scene tape.

Once the scene was secured I walked over to Skydive Sebastian and obtained statements from Dr. Dinardo, medic Rivera and Hahn. I also spoke with two witnesses that observed the plane crash, Jesse Herrick and Jeannie Bartholomew, and they provided written statement, which were all submitted with this report.

Sgt. Miller requested I respond to Sebastian Hospital to confirm the pilot's identity. At the hospital I spoke with the emergency room doctor, Dr. Mashi, who advised me that the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The victim had a wallet with a pictured Florida driver's license in the name of [REDACTED]. I positively identified the victim as the same. This information was provided to Sgt. Miller.

REPORTING OFFICER Raps, Eric	DATE 04/07/2023	TIME 17:56	SUPERVISOR McGruder, Debora Ann	SECURE No	JUVENILE
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SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE TYPE: Incident On April 8th 2023 at approximately 0940 hours I responded to [REDACTED] reference to a follow up to case # 23-0653. Upon my arrival I met with a individual identified at Timothy Coleman. Timothy advised he was a witness to the plane crash that happened on 4/7/23 and wanted to fill out a statement. Timothy filled out a witness statement and said he believes from his experience from being in the Air Force that it was [REDACTED] The witness statement will be submitted and this supplement will be information only. No further action from this officer.					
REPORTING OFFICER Martinez, Octavio	DATE 04/08/2023	TIME 11:32	SUPERVISOR McGruder, Debora Ann		SECURE No JUVENILE Yes

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SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE

TYPE: Incident

On April 7, 2023, at approximately at 1444, a call came out regarding a plane crash at the Sebastian Airport. FTO Brandes and I proceeded to the plane crash with our emergency light and siren activated. Upon arriving to the Sebastian airport, we continue with the vehicle on emergency mode on since we had to cross an active tarmac. After crossing the tarmac we located the small plane.

FTO Brandes and I cautiously drove up to the scene. While FTO Brandes made contact with the medics that were already attending to the injured pilot. The medics on the ground had request a medical evacuation via helicopter. FTO Brandes followed through with the request to dispatch.

Concurrently, I started taking pictures of the crash scene. FTO Brandes had gone back to his vehicle to retrieve two fire extinguishers, due to the fact that there was fluid leaking from the plane. He placed them in between the plane and the medics; who were trying to stabilize the pilot.

I, then made contact with Ruben Louis, DOB [REDACTED] who stated he saw the plane crash and was the one that called. Ruben was asked to write a written statement on what he saw. Rubin stated he had to leave but all his information was taken.

FTO Brandes set forth a perimeter for the plane crash with yellow DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE tape.

On 4/8/23 at approximately 0911 hours, I was dispatched to [REDACTED] to make contact with airport manager, Jeff Savo.

Upon arrival, I made contact with Jeff Savo, Aaron McCarter, and Bob Marterlotti. Aaron is a representative for the NTSB (National Transportation Safety Bureau), he's documenting the plane crash. Bob is a representative of Piper Aircraft, since the plane was a Piper product.

At approximately 1050, I made contact with Richard Lanning, [REDACTED] he was another caller from yesterday. I had Richard fill out a witness statement.

I started a crime log sheet and added all the names of the personnel that were present at the scene.

I turned the crime scene log and witness statement to Officer Martinez after completion.

The scene was turned over to Aaron due to it now being his investigation.

REPORTING OFFICER Dean, Melisa	DATE 04/08/2023	TIME 11:42	SUPERVISOR McGruder, Debora Ann	SECURE No	JUVENILE
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SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE

TYPE: Incident

On 04/07/23 I responded as the active shift supervisor to the Sebastian Municipal Airport in regards to a possible plane crash. While in route dispatch advised that they received multiple emergency phone calls from multiple individuals advising that they witnessed a small plane crash at the airport.

Upon my arrival on scene I proceeded to enter the airport via gate 8. I could clearly observe emergency personal vehicles parked in the center area of a large grassy field which was also located near the center of the airport. I could also see what appeared to be a smaller white in color airplane lying on its left side and partially on its roof with its left wing sheared off entirely and its right wing partially still attached but hanging from the fuselage. As I got closer to the crash scene I could see EMS personnel actively [REDACTED]. It was later determined that this was the pilot of the aircraft and the lone occupant of the airplane during the crash. This subject was transported by ambulance to Sebastian River Medical Center where he succumb to his injuries and was [REDACTED].

At this time I made contact with Officer Martinez who was able to brief me on the facts of the incident as well as provide me with a brief synopsis of what transpired prior to my arrival. Due to the nature of the call along with the life threatening injuries to the subject, the crash scene was secured and a crime scene log was established and maintained. Contact was made via telephone with Deputy Chief Witt who responded to the scene. Contact was also made via telephone with Detective Ken McDonough who also responded to the scene.

While still on scene I then made contact via telephone with the F.A.A. Regional Operation Center at which time I spoke to Brian who stated he needed information in regards to the actual plane and the identity of the pilot and that he would be forwarding this information to his supervisor who would be in contact with me. A short time later I spoke to Ryan Warren from the F.A.A. who advised that they would be sending an agent to our location to begin their portion of the investigation. It was also advised at this time by the airport director that a subject from the N.T.S.B. was also be dispatched from Washington D.C. and would arrive on scene on the following date to begin their portion of the investigation.

Upon his arrival the scene was turned over to F.A.A. Inspector Ryan Sebek [REDACTED] in order for him to conduct his official investigation. Upon completion and after speaking with the N.T.S.B. it was determined that scene security on the crashed airplane did not need to be constantly maintained. Inspector Sebek requested that the Sebastian Police Department periodically check on the crash site to ensure no unauthorized persons entered the area. This information was passed along to Sgt. Mills whos shift continued closed patrols on the site throughout the evening.