



CITY OF VENICE POLICE DEPARTMENT



Case 23-0823

Printed on June 12, 2023

Status	Approved
Report Type	OIR
Primary Officer	Alden Codina
Investigator	None
Records Technician	Monica Thompson
Reported At	06/10/23 12:20
Incident Date	06/10/23 12:20
Incident Code	045 : Aircraft Crash
Location	[REDACTED] @FESTIVAL GROUNDS, VENICE, FL 34285
Zone	1
Court	None
Ereferral County	None
Disposition	Active Investigation
Disposition Date/Time	06/10/23 12:20
Review for Gang Activity	None
CAD #/CAD Case #	C2306100495
In-Car Camera	Yes
Evidence.com	Yes
Axon Community Request	No
Flock Related	No

Unspecified

EPPLEY, JIM

Male

[REDACTED]
VENICE, FL 34285

KUNZ, DALE PATRICK

Male, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
VENICE, FL 34285

KUNZ, MELINDA ANN

Female, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
VENICE, FL 34285

PRESLER, BRUCE

Male, DOB [REDACTED]

Vehicles

2022 Green GENESIS GV70
Owner DALE PATRICK KUNZ

Original Narrative By Alden Codina, 06/10/23 17:15

AIRCRAFT CRASH INVESTIGATION

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By: Ofc. A. Codina

Assisted by: Lt. Goodson, Ofc. Nelson, and Ofc. Brooks

Reference Case #23-0823

OCCURRENCE

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On 6/10/23 at approximately 1127 hours officers were dispatched to an injured person at the airport, reported by Suncoast Air Center. The patient was described as an unconscious male near runway 23. SSO Air One deputies responded, on the ground, and located a yellow M24 Orion gyrocopter that crashed into a fence separating the airport from the festival grounds. I arrived on scene shortly after with VFD units where I observed a male subject in the pilot seat of the aircraft covered in blood. The gyrocopter is an experimental aircraft licensed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) with tail # N49PF.

ON SCENE ACTIONS

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On arrival I located SSO aviation units and immediately began assisting VFD with medical assistance. The occupant was identified as Dale R. Kunz who was a private licensed pilot and appeared to be the only subject inside the aircraft at the time of the crash. Dale presented with being in and out of conscious with the inability to speak. Dale was placed inside of the ambulance where VFD issued a trauma alert and a request for bay-flight. Dale was shortly transferred from the scene to SMH Main Campus by helicopter for additional life saving treatment.

James Eppley, Airport Administration, arrived on scene and assisted with notifications to the FAA and NTSB. The scene was photographed and the area around the craft posted with crime scene tape. The craft remains in the fenced area of the airport and festival grounds. The code was changed on the festival gate by Eppley for added security. Eppley advised the FAA will be sending an investigator to the scene with arrival later today or tomorrow.

Attempts were made to locate witnesses to the crash event. One possible witness was a pilot identified as Bruce Presler who was on a flight at the time of the crash and was unable to be reached. Presler was one of the bystanders who arrived on scene and assisted with turning off the aircraft prior to his arrival. No other witnesses were reported.

After the scene was secured, I left for SMH Main to make contact with ER staff on Dale's condition. After a series of tests I was advised by the ER physician that just before taking off they believed Dale had suffered a stroke while trying to operate the gyro. They also stated Dale had been dealing with a dissecting carotid artery for several weeks which may have end up causing the stroke which was confirmed by radiology testing. Dale remains in critical condition but it is not believed to have life threatening injuries from the crash. While speaking with staff I was asked to speak to Dale's wife Melissa A. Kunz who had just shown up to the hospital shortly after Dale had gotten out of testing.

After speaking with Melissa and advising her of the results from the crash she stated that Dale was having mechanical problems with the aircraft yesterday on 6/10/23 and had gotten it fixed the same night with the help of some of his friends. She states Dale had taken the aircraft back out early yesterday evening after it had been fixed and had no issues flying the gyro. Melissa advised me she had spoke to Dale this morning but did not notice anything unusual.

Dale stated to Melissa over the phone that he did not have any issues with his aircraft and that he would be taking it out for a flight. Melissa was provided information on the case and advised to contact VPD with any questions or information.

EVIDENCE COLLECTED

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Several images of the aircraft and the scene were taken and submitted for evidence by Ofc. Brooks. A video of the incident was also submitted by Lt. Goodson.

DISPOSITION

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This case is a active investigation.

FORMS

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No forms have been filed at this time.

