

RECORD OF ☐ VISIT ☐ CONFERENCE OR ☒ TELEPHONE CALL		TIME 2:15 PM	DATE 10/03/2024
NAME (S) OF PERSON (S) CONTACTED OR IN CONFERENCE AND LOCATION Alex Tsunis via flight instructors cell phone		ROUTING	
		SYMBOL	INITIALS
SUBJECT			
DIGEST			
Alex Tsunis was the pilot of the aircraft N8575F on Oct 3rd,2024 that crashed into the bay			
Pilot stated he was a student pilot with about 22.4 hours. He has soloed before but this			
was his first solo cross country. Today he was accompanied by his instructor Joey Corrado.			
They departed from Albert Whitted Airport (KSPG) around 8:20 full tanks of gas 50 gals of			
fuel on board in aircraft N8575F a Piper Archer. They went to Seabring Municipal Airport			
then flew back to KSPG. The flight was a total of 1.8 hours and the pilot said once he got			
to the airport he let the flight instructor 'Joey' out and he resumed the same flight once			
again that they had just completed. He stated that he took off and everything in the flight			
was normal. He said that the Garmin system in the aircraft at some point told him that he			
needed to switch tanks. He said he doesn't remember what tank he started on and at what			
phase of flight it told him to switch. Somewhere around 850 ft ASL the engine stopped, he			
contacted ATC and told him he was going to be landing in the water and he was having an			
engine problem. He then took the plane down holding the nose back to glide as much as he			
could and holding airspeed. He then broke the window of the aircraft with his hand and			
crawled out the window. He swam out until he was able to be picked up by a fisherman.			
CONCLUSION, ACTION TAKEN, OR REQUIRED			
DATE	TITLE	SIGNATURE	

Alex Started in July flight instruction at St. Pete Air Flight School. I asked Mr.Tsunsu if he was familiar with the Privacy Act and Pilot's Bill of Rights and he was not. I informed him what it entailed and although it was not provided before our conversation he has since been emailed a copy of both documents.

Alex was examined by medical and he has no injuries. Alex informed me he had just lost his home last week to Hurricane Helene. He was staying in an Airbnb and all of his personal items are in storage unit. He stressed that this event was very stressful and he was concerned about not being able to fly anymore. He said that he really needs to get his personal belongings from the aircraft as his keys to the Airbnb, ID, wallet etc. are in the aircraft.

He asked if he was banned from flying. I said no you are not banned from flying however, right now I don''t think it would be a good idea.