

FAA Aircraft Incident Crash Report

1. Incident Information

- **Date of Incident:** October 16, 2024
 - **Time of Incident:** Approximately 11:25 hours
 - **Location:** Gilmer County Airport (49A)
 - **Aircraft Involved:**
 - **Aircraft Registration Number:** N-1242M
 - **Aircraft Type:** Cessna 182P, Skylane
 - **Flight Number (if applicable):** N/A
 - **Owner/Operator:** Henninger, Bradley J. Jr.
 - Cell: [REDACTED]
 - [REDACTED]
 - Email: [REDACTED]
 - **Pilot in Command (PIC):** Henninger, Bradley J. Jr.
 - **Weather Conditions at the Time:** partly cloudy, winds gusting across field 15 to 25mph with gust 31.6 @ 3,242 ft AGL AWOS-K49A
 - **Flight Purpose:** Private Flight
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2. Narrative Description of the Incident

At approximately 11:36 hours on October 16, 2024, aircraft N-1242M experienced a crash incident while operating in the vicinity of Gilmer County Airport (49A). The aircraft was observed making its final approach to Runway 03 when aborted landing and pulled up to gain altitude then crash off airport property in eastside adjacent field owned by Steven Keaner Cell: [REDACTED] parcel ID3054 075D Alt Id – [REDACTED]. video reference Gilmer Airport_ch2_PTZSouthApproach & Gilmer Airport_ch8.

Emergency services were notified immediately, and the first responders arrived on the scene at 11:38 Capt Jeff Statham Deputy Director Emergency Management Agency & Firefighter/EMT & Justin Heitman Airport Manager Gilmer County Firefighter. The aircraft sustained substantial damage and was on fire upon arrival with all four occupants out and accounted for by Pilot in Command. Initial assessment indicates unknown by Airport Manager Justin Heitman.

3. Injuries/Fatalities

- **Pilot:** Minor Facial trauma with heavy bleeding and blurry vision with confused responses. Transported by Gilmer County Fire EMS to Ellijay Hospital ER.
- **Passengers (if any):** three passengers
 1. Wife of Pilot in Command Judy Henninger facial trauma and bleeding with confused responses. Transported by Gilmer County Fire EMS to Ellijay Hospital ER.

2. Keith Sumner cell [REDACTED] - [REDACTED] small shin scrape to right leg, did not request transport from Gilmer County Fire Rescue EMs, was advised if any further complications or injuries to seek medical attention.
 3. Terry Spence cell [REDACTED], complaints of neck and back serve pain transported by Gilmer County Fire Rescue EMS to Piedmont Mountainside Hospital in Jasper, GA.
- **Ground Injuries:** None.
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4. Witness Information

- **Witness 1: Gilmer County Public Works Employee**
 - **Name:** Travis Hughs
 - **Contact Information:** [REDACTED] (please leave message if no answer)
 - **Statement:** I was mowing saw plane con in for landing saw the plane slow down then go side to side looked like wind got under it then Larry said plane crashed then Larry and I assisted Justin till Fire Department and EMS arrived.
- **Witness 2: Gilmer County Public Works Employee**
 - **Name:** Larry Nelson
 - **Contact Information:** [REDACTED]
 - **Statement:** I see the plane come in wind got under it he went over tree line and crashed.
- **Witness 3: Gilmer County Deputy Director Emergency Management Agency/Firefighter EMT**
 - **Name:** Jeffery Statham
 - **Contact Information:** [REDACTED]
 - **Statement:** On this date, I was eating lunch in the classroom at Gilmer Co airport, downstairs. A county employee entered and stated an airplane had crashed. I immediately called 911 and reported, requesting fire truck and ambulances. Exited building and entered my truck, I drove across the runway to the fence. A column of smoke was showing. Climbed the fence and as I started across the open area, I saw a plane intact with fire in the forward engine area and front passenger area around windshield. I could not yet see anyone. As I was approaching, I could hear someone calling out. That is when I saw a couple off to my left a little north of my position. Further past them I saw two more north of them. I asked if anyone was left in the plane. The female stated no. I approached them and asked if they were ok. I notified responding units we had 4 persons involved and to come across the runway when they arrived. I directed the couple to Justin, and I went to check on the other 2 males persons. One complained of back pain, the other passenger and I supported and helped him to lie flat on his back until a paramedic arrived. Will Seargent and Terrance Evans took over the injured individual. As 902 came on scene I advised him of our position to his left. He then took over as command on scene. Fire personnel took over with the patients. I used Justins phone and took pictures of the possible first ground contact. It appears to be 2 lines in the grass, debris and what appears to be the prop and cowling strike. As

all of this occurred plane continued to burn, a few loud detonations from the plane. Had the county workers go to the office with Tony and write what they saw and leave contact information along with one plane occupant that was not transported to a medical facility. Injured were transported by Gilmer County Fire Rescue,

- **Witness 4: Gilmer County Airport Manager/Firefighter**
 - **Name:** Justin Heitman
 - **Contact Information:** [REDACTED]
 - **Statement:** On this date, I was eating lunch in the classroom of Gilmer County Airport, downstairs, County Employee Larry entered the main lobby entrance and stated a plane had crashed. I immediately told Tony Grizzle Airport employee to contact Flight Services at Atlanta Hartsfield Jacksons, and that I would call him as soon as I had the N-Number and crash site status. I followed Jeffery Statham to crash site via Side-by-side following Statham emergency vehicle. Upon arrival Statham and I jump cattle fencing and the aircraft was already engulfed in flames. Three explosions are what I heard two were assumed to be wheels and the third came from the gas tanks on the wings which fire was forward and over engine. I heard voices to my immediate left which were Brad (pilot) and wife Judy, I did not immediately see the two other passengers. Statham has approached Brad and Judy and directed them to me for first medical assessment both had head trauma and bleeding I directed to and assisted them over the cattle fencing to Travis and Travis assisted to EMS/EMT Paramedic Personnel, at approximately 11:44 Gilmer County Fire Rescue/EMS/Georgia State Patrol/Gilmer County Sheriff's office on duty deputies arrived. Fire was extinguished with water no fire fighting foam was used to limit additional hazardous materials exposure to pastureland. Once scene was rendered safe by Incident Command and myself, Kirck Champion Criminal Investigation Division Gilmer County assisted me stringing cautionary tape and placing markers to gather pictures and document debris from aircraft. In parallel during the period, I was coordinating with the report to NTSB and Atlanta Flight Safety District Office.
 - **The crash site was secured, and all personnel removed at 12:49PM, site was revisited but not accessed into marked area to check for any fire reflash at 1300.**

5. Initial Findings and Actions Taken

6. Reporting Official

- **Name:** Justin Heitman
- **Title:** Airport Manager



- **Contact Information:**
 - Gilmer County Airport
 -  Rd.
 - Ellijay, GA 30536.