



RECORD OF EMAIL

Samantha Link
Aviation Accident Investigator
Western Pacific Region

Date: March 29, 2018
Person Contacted: Dr. Mary Pat McKay (NTSB Chief Medical Officer)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR17LA092

Narrative:

During an email conversation, Dr. McKay reported the following:

“....According to the police report, during the investigation by local law enforcement the pilot failed a field sobriety test, scored 0.189 gm/dl, 0.231 gm/dl, and 0.216 gm/dl on three attempts at breath tests for alcohol performed at approximately 2311-2316. At approximately 0330, blood was drawn for an alcohol level at a local hospital. According to the lab report, the pilots’ alcohol level in the blood drawn at 0330 was 0.160 gm/dl.

Ethanol is a social drug that acts as a central nervous system depressant. After ingestion, at low doses, it impairs judgment, psychomotor functioning, and vigilance; at higher doses alcohol can cause coma and death. The effects of alcohol on aviators are generally well understood; alcohol significantly impairs pilots’ performance, even at very low levels. Federal Aviation Regulations, Section 91.17 (a) prohibits any person from acting or attempting to act as a crewmember of a civil aircraft while having 0.040 gm/dl or more alcohol in the blood....”

END.

Submitted by: Samantha Link