

All,

At approximately 9:30 am on Wednesday 7/25/18 a single engine aircraft crashed while attempting to land. N4747H is a Piper Cherokee 6 PA-32-300 was making the second attempt to land on runway 22. When the aircraft was downwind I advised the pilot of the winds which were 330 @ 4 and recommended right traffic 22 for the uphill. The first attempt was too high and they never touched the pavement, on the second attempt to land they were still too high and came in too fast but managed to put the wheels on the runway. The touch down point was past halfway down the runway. I did not hear any screeching tires and thought the pilot could make it if he was hard on the brakes. Later I inspected the runway and observed no significant skid marks on the runway from attempting to stop. As the pilot neared the end of the runway I heard the engine rev up and saw the aircraft depart the airport surface in a very nose high pitch attitude. As the aircraft disappeared from my view I knew it had crashed. At this point I called 911 and alerted Avalon dispatch that an airplane had crashed at the airport on Escondido road. I then asked Richie Ponce to go to the end of the runway and confirm this. As he was going out there I also radioed for conservancy rangers to respond to the airport. When Richie confirmed that the airplane had indeed crashed he also said there was no fire at that time. I grabbed a fire extinguisher from the tower and took a van down to the scene. It appears the aircraft had impacted the hill about 1,000 feet from the end of the runway and 75 to 100 feet below the runway surface in a nose low attitude. Randy Lewis was there already and 2 passengers had gotten out of the plane and were sitting behind the fuselage out of my initial sight. The pilot was slumped over in the seat and non responsive. After briefly looking at the pilot I reached through the place where the windshield would normally be and turned off the master switch and removed the keys. I put the keys next to the throttle quadrant and noticed that all the levers were full forward. The pilot had obvious head trauma and a broken left leg. He was breathing and had a pulse. Soon after Phil Lopez arrived on scene and tried to get vitals from the pilot and spoke with the passengers. When Mike Alegria arrived I gave him a quick report on what I knew then went back to the tower to start making phone calls to all the agencies that needed to be informed (FAA, ATC, NTSB). Last I heard the condition of one of the passengers had deteriorated and was now considered seriously or critically injured. All victims were transported to Harbor Medical in Torrance by LA Fire helicopters. After receiving the OK from the NTSB to move the wreckage from Escondido road it was moved up to the airport. I have since been in contact with the adjuster from US AIG and will have more information on what happens to the aircraft tomorrow.

Thanks

Justin