



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

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Case Report

<u>Interview(s):</u> Witness: NAME: HERRIN, LEMONT P DATE OF BIRTH: [REDACTED] ALS: [REDACTED] [REDACTED] STREET ADDRESS: [REDACTED] CITY: HELENA STATE: MT ZIP: 59601 COUNTRY: USA HOME PHONE: [REDACTED]	<u>Officer:</u> Daniel Graves FWP Game Warden (FG319) 930 West Custer, MT 59602 [REDACTED] <u>Case/CAD#:</u> FWP24CAD003568
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Synopsis:

I, Daniel Graves (MT FWP Warden FG319), interviewed Lemont Herrin at approximately 1255, July 10th, 2024 on Hauser Lake at the scene of the plane crash. The following is a summary of the interview I conducted with Lemont Herrin and the details he provided.

Narrative / Interview:

Lemont Herrin was fishing in his personal boat just North of the crash site near Lakeside on Hauser Lake at approximately 1200, when he saw four (4) Forest Service fire fighting aircraft (pontoon style with undercarriage opening) line up to fill their aircraft for ongoing firefighting operations that were taking place South of York.

The first plane successfully dipped into the lake and got its water pay load and flew North/Northwest, the second plane followed the same path as the first plane but upon filling up



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the plane deviated from a northwardly take off and veered South/ Southwest only reaching an altitude of approximately 25-30 feet before it crashed into the steep cliff embankment along the Missouri River/Hauser Lake.

After witnessing the crash, Lemont Herrin drove to the plane crash site and attempted to rescue to pilot. Lemont Herrin dove into the water when he found the cockpit with the pilot still seat belted in and noticed immediately that pilot was deceased.

At the time he dove into the water the fuselage was in approximately seven (7) feet of water and Lemont stated that he noted the glass surrounding the cockpit was not intact and extensive damage was done to the fuselage.

Lemont Herrin stopped his attempt at extracting the pilot as the fuselage sunk deeper into the lake and he concluded his recovery efforts.

Lemont Herrin stated he had a video on his phone that he would be happy to share it with any law enforcement personnel.

I concluded my interview with Lemont Herrin at approximately 1330 and he left the area.

///Nothing Follows///