

3/18/14

## FAX COVER SHEET

From: <sup>TO</sup> Placer County  
Sheriff  
Company: Tahoe

From: "McKenny Van"

Date: 03/10/14 02:46:20 PM

Fax Number: [REDACTED]

Pages (Including cover): 2

Re: Sheriff report request

## Notes:

VAN S. MCKENNY IV  
Aerospace Engineer (Field)  
National Transportation Safety Board  
[REDACTED]

ATTN:  
TAHOE RECORDS

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## facsimile

### TRANSMITTAL

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to: Placer County Sheriff  
fax #: [REDACTED]  
re: Sheriff Report for Airplane accident N9281F  
date: 3 March, 2014  
pages: 1, including this cover sheet.

The NTSB requests a copy of the police report and on-scene photos for an airplane accident that occurred on 3 March, 2014, about 5 miles east of Truckee, CA. The report will be used in the investigation of an aircraft accident under the authority of 49 CFR Part 835. Please mail the information to:

National Transportation Safety Board  
Van McKenny WPR14FA127  
28364 South Western Ave, #332  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

Or email to: [REDACTED]

Thank you.

Van S. McKenny IV  
Aerospace Engineer (Field)

Van McKenny  
Aerospace Engineer  
National Transportation Safety Board  
28364 S. Western Ave. #332  
Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275

[REDACTED]

14-3-3-2092

# PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF / CORONER'S DEPARTMENT

## CRIME / INCIDENT REPORT

VALUE LOSS												REPORT NUMBER															
GEO CODE												S0-14 -2092															
Truckee		CONNECTED REPORTS																									
SECTION		F		M		CRIME TITLE																					
A		Incident				SAR Mission-Aircraft Crash																					
B																											
C																											
D																											
LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE						REPORTED		MO.		DAY		YR.		TIME		OCCURRED		MO.		DAY		YR.		TIME			
Martis Peak Area								3		3		14		1059				3		3		14		1059			
Placer County, CA																											
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE) FIRM IF BUSINESS						RACE		SEX		AGE		HT.		WT.		HAIR		BIRTHDAY		A		B		C		D	
IP FARNELL, RAY RICHARD						W		M		70		605		205		BRN				X							
ADDRESS						CITY		RESIDENCE PHONE						BUSINESS PHONE													
RES. [REDACTED] Tahoe City, CA 96145								Unknown						Unknown													
P.O. Unknown												VICTIM'S VEHICLE (YEAR, MAKE, MODEL, LICENSE NUMBER)															
BUS Unknown						OCCUPATION Unknown																					
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)						RACE		SEX		AGE		HT.		WT.		HAIR		BIRTHDAY		A		B		C		D	
D FARNELL, DARLA SUE						W		F		55		509		140		BRN				X							
ADDRESS						CITY		RESIDENCE PHONE						BUSINESS PHONE													
RES. [REDACTED], Tahoe City, CA 96145								Unknown						Unknown													
P.O. Unknown												VICTIM'S VEHICLE (YEAR, MAKE, MODEL, LICENSE NUMBER)															
BUS Unknown						OCCUPATION Unknown																					
NAME (LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE)						ARRESTED		YES		NO		MIRANDA		YES		NO				A		B		C		D	
S																											
ADDRESS						CITY		RESIDENCE PHONE						BUSINESS PHONE													
RES.																											
P.O.																											
SCHOOL IF JUVENILE						OCCUPATION																					
BUS																											
RACE		SEX		AGE		BIRTHDATE		HT.		WT.		HAIR		EYES		CLOTHING											
ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTION (1) TATTOO (2) MARKS & SCARS (3) HAIR TYPE (4) FACIAL HAIR (5) TEETH (6) SPEECH (7) COMPLEXION																											
SUSPECT VEHICLE																											
LICENSE NUMBER -				STATE		MANUFACTURE				MAKE				MODEL				YEAR		COLORS				TOP - BOTTOM			
CHARACTERISTICS (1) DAMAGE (BODY, WINDOWS, INTERIOR, REPAIRS) (2) CUSTOM WHEELS (3) INTERIOR DESCRIPTION																											
GIVE A BRIEF SYNOPSIS AND BEGIN INVESTIGATION ON CONTINUATION REPORT																											
(SEE NARRATIVE)																											
RESPONDING OFFICER (S)													REPORTING OFFICER														
Riella, Lasagna, Hunt, Mathias, Allen, Bourassa													Riella #110														

3/17/14 INV

[Signature]  
601 5-04

GEO.CODE

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

REPORT NUMBER

Truckee

**CONTINUATION REPORT**

SO-13-2092

CONNECTED REPORTS

☒ ORIGINAL REPORT ☐ SUPPLEMENTARY ☐ FOLLOW-UP

CRIME TYPE:

VICTIM:

Incident Report/SAR

N/A

**NARRATIVE:****3-3-14 At 1059 Hours:**

PCSO Dispatch received a call regarding a possible airplane crash (**SEE EVENT PRINTOUT FOR FURTHER**).

Det. Sgt. Hunt requested I respond to the Martis Peak Road entrance, off S/R 267. SAR Incident Command (IC) was established at that location. I was assigned as SAR coordinator.

The following Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue (TNSAR) personnel arrived to the IC. Their SAR cards were collected:

- Chris McConnell
- Ray Obrien
- James Helminiak
- Scott Meyer
- Kyle Railton

I worked with Obrien using GPS coordinates provided by Dispatch, 39.297397, -120.013303. This area is the Juniper Creek area, Murphy's Meadows. Per the event, PCSO Sgt. Walton had provided these coordinates using Tahoe Truckee Unicom. At approximately 1151 hours, CHP H-24 located a section of the fuselage. They provided GPS coordinates of 39.29717, -120.01210. These coordinates are in the same Juniper Creek area/Murphy's Meadows.

At approximately 1205 hours, Obrien deployed the TNSAR snow cat into the search area. Obrien took with him 5 North Tahoe Fire personnel with their ALS equipment. Snowmobile Team 2 deployed into the search area as well (McConnell, Helminiak, Meyer, PCSO Det. Lasagna). At approximately 1229 hours, the PCSO snow cat deployed into the search area (Dep. Mathias, Lawicka, Snow cat Operator Kruenegel).

The PCSO Communications van arrived at the IC at approximately 1218 hours. It was staffed with PCSO personnel Mann and Hernandez. An event log was established and recorded by Mann.

At approximately 1245 hours, Team 2 arrived at the downed aircraft. It was determined there was one male survivor on the plane. There was a female on board the plane, who was unresponsive, with no pulse. At approximately 1347 hours, it was reported to Dispatch the one survivor is out

Reporting Detective: Riella #110

March 4, 2014

Approved: [Signature]

GEO.CODE

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

REPORT NUMBER

Truckee

**CONTINUATION REPORT**

SO-13-2092

CONNECTED REPORTS

☒ ORIGINAL REPORT ☐ SUPPLEMENTARY ☐ FOLLOW-UP

CRIME TYPE:

VICTIM:

Incident Report/SAR

N/A

(male), and enroute to the IC for transport to the hospital. The second subject (female) was confirmed 11-44, deceased. It was also reported no other passengers were on board.

At approximately 1425 hours, Det. Bourassa and TNSAR member Baumgardner deployed into the area on snowmobiles. They also brought the rescue sled with them, for the removal of the decedent **(SEE DETECTIVE BOURASSA'S SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT FOR FURTHER)**.

At approximately 1500 hours, the male survivor arrived at the IC by TNSAR snow cat. He was transported by Truckee Fire personnel to Renown Medical Center, Reno, NV. All NTFD personnel also arrived at the IC and were accounted for.

At approximately 1700 hours, all personnel deployed into the search area were accounted for at the IC. No reported injuries, equipment or medical issues were reported by the deployed personnel. All SAR cards were returned to TNSAR members.

A meal was provided to all personnel deployed into the area. A mission debrief was conducted. The following deployed personnel were present;

- TNSAR-McConnell, Obrien, Helminiak, Railton, Meyer, Baumgardner, Koplin (never deployed)
- PCSO-Hunt, Riella, Lasagna, Bourassa, Mann, Hernandez, Mathias, Allen, Lawicka, Kruenegel
- PCSO Chaplains-2
- NTFD-Goldstone, Hopwood, Nelson, Overby, Perhacs, Whisler
- CHP-2 Officers

At approximately 1753 hours, I notified PCSO Dispatch the IC was terminated, with all involved being accounted for.

No further.

Reporting Detective: Riella #110

March 17, 2014

Approved: 

GEO.CODE

Truckee

## PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**CONTINUATION REPORT**

REPORT NUMBER

SO-14-2092

CONNECTED REPORTS

[ ] ORIGINAL REPORT [ X ] SUPPLEMENTARY [ ] FOLLOW-UP

CRIME TYPE:

Search &amp; Rescue

Decedent:

Farnell, Darla

03/03/14

1120 hours

CSO Kristen Mann contacted me via telephone. She told me Sergeant Hunt was requesting that I respond to the office due to a report of a plane crash in the wilderness.

I responded from my residence to the Tahoe City, Sheriff's Office, and acquired a patrol car and a trailer that contained the rescue snowmobile and sled. I responded to the summit of HWY 267 and stood by waiting for direction from the command post. Search and Rescue volunteer Scott Baumgardner met with me at the summit and stood by with me.

At approximately 1308 hours, I was notified to respond to the crash site to bring out the decedent. Scott Baumgardner and I responded on two snowmobiles with a rescue sled in tow. We followed the snowcat track back to the crash site. Once on scene I met with Detective Lasagna and Deputy Mathias. I assisted in getting the decedent into a body bag and safely loaded into the rescue sled.

I assisted Chris McConnell in locating and disconnecting the ELT (emergency locator transmitter). We contacted the command post and had them check that the ELT was off. From what they could tell the transmitter was no longer transmitting.

All of us cleared the scene together. Scott Baumgardner drove the snowmobile with the rescue sled containing the decedent.

At approximately 1700 hours, we arrived at the command post and met with the mortuary representative who took custody of the decedent's body.

End or supplement.

Reporting Detective: S. Bourassa #119  
March 3, 2014

Approved

GEO.CODE

Martis Peak Area

## PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**CONTINUATION REPORT**

REPORT NUMBER

SO14- 2092

CONNECTED REPORTS

☐ ORIGINAL REPORT ☒ SUPPLEMENTARY ☐ FOLLOW-UP

CRIME TYPE:

SAR

VICTIM:

Ray and Darla Farnell

03/03/14 at 1059Hrs

I was at the office when I heard the call over the radio of a possible downed airplane 3 to 4 miles S/E of the Truckee Airport. Dispatch confirmed that an ELT, a downed airplane locator, had been activated and that FAA officials were trying to pinpoint its location.

I knew if the plane went down 3 to 4 miles S/E of the Truckee Airport it would be in snowy rugged mountainous terrain. I immediately began to hook up the Sheriff's Department mountain capable snowmobile.

I left in route from the office to the Incident Command that had been established at Martis Valley Lookout Rd on S/R 267. I arrived at Incident Command at Martis Valley Lookout Rd. at 1150Hrs. I met up with Tahoe Nordic snowmobiler Chris McConnell and we were the first to leave the Incident Command and deploy into the field at 1223Hrs.

We had heard that a CHP helicopter, H24, had spotted the downed plane and had given out coordinates. McConnell had input the coordinates into his GPS and we began to head out to the location in the general area of Juniper Creek.

On our way out we marked our trail periodically with pink ribbon. We got to within .10 miles of the location but could not locate the plane in the heavily treed area. I could see CHP helicopter H24 circling the area above us but then it took off. We contacted the H24 via radio. H24 said they were low on fuel and returning to the Truckee airport for fuel. They relayed they had not seen us in the area but had enough fuel to return and hover over the downed airplane.

H24 returned and we were able to find a route through the trees to the downed aircraft. McConnell and I arrived at the plane at 1245Hrs. I immediately ran to the plane and surveyed the area for possible fuel leaks and other inherent dangers to responding personnel. I could smell the slight odor of aviation fuel but found no large amounts of fuel. There was no sign of smoke from the plane or electrical power still activated.

I noted to myself that the fuselage was fairly intact. All the windows and doors were still intact. I could see a male in the left seat of the cockpit though the window. His head was back and he was unresponsive to my tapping on the window. I told McConnell that we had one male onboard unresponsive. McConnell was relaying out information to the SAR communication van. I went around the front of the plane and looked in the right side window but could not see in due to a ceiling

Reporting Officer: Det J.Lasagna#49  
March 5, 2014

Approved:

GEO.CODE

Martis Peak Area

## PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

REPORT NUMBER

SO14- 2092

**CONTINUATION REPORT**

CONNECTED REPORTS

☐ ORIGINAL REPORT ☒ SUPPLEMENTARY ☐ FOLLOW-UP

CRIME TYPE:

SAR

VICTIM:

Ray and Darla Farnell

panel that had fallen partially down. I circled the plane and found the door on the left side of the fuselage.

I opened the door and immediately heard the rhythmic moaning of someone up in the cockpit. I let McConnell know that someone was still alive. All the items from the back of the plane and moved forward upon impact and were blocking my access to the cockpit. I began removing items from the plane to access the cockpit. I could still hear the moaning from the male I had seen through the window and tried to comfort him by talking saying, "Help was on the way, you're going to be OK."

I could see that no one else was in the back of the plane while I cleared the debris from the interior. I reached the cockpit area and could see the male, later identified as Ray Farnell. He had blunt force trauma to his face. A ceiling panel had come down and was covering the right side cockpit seat. I lifted the panel and could see a female slouched over in the seat. I tapped on the female and asked if she was OK. The female, later identified as Darla Farnell was unresponsive. I yelled out to McConnell that we had a second female onboard who was unresponsive. I was able to locate her carotid artery on the right side of her neck and found no pulse. Her skin was also cold to the touch.

I turned my attention back to the male who was still moaning. The male was unable to speak or answer any of my questions. He would slightly move his hands and arms but could do nothing else. I tried to comfort him with talk and told him to lie still and that help was on the way. I did a medical assessment on his injuries. I saw that he had blood on his left knee area, small lacerations on his arms, and blunt force trauma to his facial area. The wounds were no longer bleeding. He had no major bleeds and was moaning indicating he had a good airway.

I was unsure if his legs were pinned in the cockpit due to the darkness in the plane. I believed it was best that we leave him in his current position until help could arrive to possibly cut him out of the plane. I let McConnell know that we would probably need extrication tools and he relayed this information to the incoming teams.

I asked McConnell if he could come to the plane and comfort the male while I took some quick pictures of the scene before more units arrived. McConnell assisted with the male and I photographed the 4 sides of the plane. I then stepped back further and photographed the debris field around the plane.

I came back and relieved McConnell. The male was still moaning and alive. McConnell found that the incoming teams were having difficulty finding our path in and that they needed assistance to find us. He set off on his snowmobile to find the incoming teams and bring them to the plane.

Reporting Officer: Det J.Lasagna#49  
March 5, 2014

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

GEO.CODE

Martis Peak Area

## PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**CONTINUATION REPORT**

REPORT NUMBER

SO14- 2092

CONNECTED REPORTS

☐ ORIGINAL REPORT ☒ SUPPLEMENTARY ☐ FOLLOW-UP

CRIME TYPE:

SAR

VICTIM:

Ray and Darla Farnell

I got back in the cockpit and began comforting the male. I was able to tear the wiring off the ceiling panel that had fallen and get it out of the way. This allowed light through the front windows and lit the cockpit area up considerably.

I could now see that the female had major blunt force trauma to the facial area. I checked her carotid pulse again and found no pulse. The male kept moaning and slightly moving his hands and legs. I continued to comfort him and told him to remain still as help was on the way. I was able to see the male's legs better with the ceiling panel removed. I could see him slightly moving his feet and could tell they were not trapped in the wreckage. I contemplated how to get the male out. It looked like we would be able to get him out if we could remove a seat that backed up to the male's cockpit seat. I stayed with the male comforting him until help arrived.

McConnell returned with a Sno-Cat that had 5 North Tahoe Fire personnel and Ray Obrien with Tahoe Nordic. I relayed to Obrien that we could remove the seats if he had tools in the Sno-Cat. He retrieved some wrenches from the Sno-Cat and began working on the seat. A fire fighter began assisting in the cockpit with the injured. Other fire fighters began trying to break out the cockpit windows but then scrapped the idea when we were able to remove the seat.

I assisted in clearing the Sno-Cat interior to house the injured male on a backboard for transport out. I then helped get the male onto the back board. The male was loaded on the Sno-Cat and transported. I called dispatch via cellphone and pronounced the female's death at 1318Hrs.

A second Sno-Cat arrived with Deputy Shane Mathias. Mathias took over the coroner report and photographed the decedent (see coroner's report 3 14-2093). I helped with the extraction of the decedent from the plane. I surrounded the scene with caution tape before leaving back to Incident command.

3/4/14 at 0830Hrs

The next morning, I met with FAA officials Gerald Rose, Hugh Roche, and Michael Shurtleff. Deputy Lawicka and Ray Obrien drove the Sno-Cat and I drove a snowmobile. We took the 3 FAA officials in to the crash site.

FAA officials conducted their investigation collecting what items they needed for the crash investigation. I collected more personal items found in the plane that were not taken from the plane

Reporting Officer: Det J.Lasagna#49  
March 5, 2014

Approved:

GEO.CODE

Martis Peak Area

## PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

**CONTINUATION REPORT**

REPORT NUMBER

SO14- 2092

CONNECTED REPORTS

☐ ORIGINAL REPORT ☒ SUPPLEMENTARY ☐ FOLLOW-UP

CRIME TYPE:

SAR

VICTIM:

Ray and Darla Farnell

the day before. I took 2 brown luggage bags, a black clothing bag, and a red and white duffle bag. The items were later booked into evidence for safe keeping.

**Note:**

Not all personal property was taken from the plane as it was difficult to find and take everything from it. NTSB will be working on removing the plane from the field for a detailed inspection. NTSB should be contacted for other possible personal items found in the plane after their detailed inspection.

Reporting Officer: Det J.Lasagna#49  
March 5, 2014

Approved: [Signature]

# PLACER COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE

DR NO. 2014-0002092

## PROPERTY RECORD

Lab/Rel. #

Page 1 of 1

INVOLVMENT	NAME			INVOLVMENT	NAME			TAG NO.	
VIC-1	FARNELL, DARLA SUE							B3741	
DOB	ADDRESS			DOB	ADDRESS				
	CARNELIAN BAY, CA, 9								
INVOLVMENT	NAME			INVOLVMENT	NAME				
DOB	ADDRESS			DOB	ADDRESS				
INVOLVMENT	NAME			INVOLVMENT	NAME				
DOB	ADDRESS			DOB	ADDRESS				
CHARGE				CHARGE DESCRIPTION					
01 DEATH				DEATH INVESTIGATION <i>ISAR</i>					
DATE AND TIME PROPERTY BOOKED				ADDRESS/LOCATION WHERE PROPERTY FOUND				OFFICER BOOKING PROPERTY	
03 06 2014 05:59				TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST				LASAGNA, JOHN/ 1185400	
ITEM	BAR CODE #	QUANTITY	COLOR	ARTICLE	BRAND	MODEL	TYPE	INV.	
JEL01	E2720-14	1		DISC					
DESCRIPTION					SERIAL#		PROPERTY TYPE		
CD-R pictures of plane crash scene							Evidence		