

Witness Interview

ERA13FA139 Thomson, GA, Beechcraft 390

Wednesday June 26, 2013

Telephone interview conducted by:

Pete Wentz – NTSB AS-60

Mark George – NTSB AS-60

John S. Hoff - Attorney

Witness: Deputy Clay Hammond / McDuffie County Sherriff's Office

On the night of February 20, 2013, around 8:00pm, Deputy Hammond received a radio call from a fellow deputy reporting a loud bang that came from behind the Milliken plant, across the street from the Thomson-McDuffie County airport. Deputy Hammond responded to the call and aided in the search and rescue of an airplane crash. When he arrived at the scene, there was fire around the airplane wreckage. He searched the area, and found an unconscious man strapped in an airplane seat. The man was still breathing. The seat was separated from the airplane and was lying on its back, "several feet" away from the wreckage. Deputy Hammond and State Patrolman Lieutenant Jason Johnson both used their personal knives to cut the seat belts to free the man from the seat. Deputy Hammond, Patrolman Johnson and an EMS worker placed the individual on a backboard and carried him to an ambulance with the help of firefighters who were on scene. Deputy Hammond noted that the man moaned in pain, but was "not coherent," and did not speak any intelligible words.

After carrying the man to the ambulance, Deputy Hammond remained at the scene to secure the crash site until 11:30am on February 21, 2013.