



Incident Report

SHENANGO TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT
3439 HUBBARD-MIDDLESEX RD
WEST MIDDLESEX, PA 16159

Phone: (724)528-3334 Fax: (724)528-1437

Approved Report ☒ 1 - JASON NEWTON

Municipality SHENANGO TOWNSHIP (224)
Report Type INCIDENT

Incident #

Reference #

16-4317

Location 3685 HUBBARD WEST MIDDLESEX RD -
WEST MIDDLESEX 16159

Landmark WEST MIDDLESEX AIRPORT

Premise OPEN LAND AREAS/FIELD/WOODS

Criminal Code	Title :
	Section :
	Sub-Section :
	Description :

Point of Entry
Meth. of Entry

Patrol Zone 1 Grid 1 - TWP Z-1

Reported 10/28/2016 @ 14:26 (Fri)

Discovered @

Last Secure @

Received 14:27 Dispatched 14:27

Arrived 14:31 Cleared 16:47

Status CLOSED/CLEARED

Disposition CLOSED - NO FURTHER ACTION

Clear Date 10/29/2016

Badge 4 - OFC. JONATHAN DECARMEN

UCR Codes	4006 ACCIDENT - OTHER

Additional Officers

Officers

1 CHIEF JASON NEWTON
11 S.R.O. DANIEL OSTER
3 OFC. JUSTIN BARNES
5 OFC. JOSHUA NATALE

Date

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Activity

CHIEF OF POLICE
ASSISTING OFFICER
SHIFT SUPERVISOR
ASSISTING OFFICER

Property

Item	Make/Model/Serial#	Qty	Status	Stolen \$	Recovered # / \$ / Date
WHITE IN COLOR WITH A ROTAX 503 ENGINE.	KOLB	0	DAMAGED	0.00	0 0.00

Investigating Officer

Signature

Date

Approving Officer

Signature

Date

Persons Involved

FOBES, GARY

Arrest Date :

Disposition Date :

Role	Incident Classification	How Charged	Disposition
DRIVER/VEHICLE OWN	4006 ACCIDENT - OTHER		

Alias
 Age-DOB [REDACTED] Height
 Race **WHITE** Weight **0** Home Addr [REDACTED]
 Sex **MALE** Hair
 Ethnicity Eyes
 Marital Stat Build
 Residency **Resident** Complex.
 SSN Home Ph # [REDACTED]
 Gang Work Ph # [REDACTED]
 Tattoo Cell Ph # [REDACTED]
 Clothing Other Ph # [REDACTED] No Photo
 E-Mail
 Employer
 GBM Id
 -Entered / /
 -Released / /
 OLN/State **11863020/PA** Occupation
 Addl Addr **None**
 Injury

WALKER, AL

Arrest Date :

Disposition Date :

Role	Incident Classification	How Charged	Disposition
ON SCENE	4006 ACCIDENT - OTHER		

Alias
 Age-DOB - / / Height
 Race **WHITE** Weight **0** Home Addr
 Sex **MALE** Hair
 Ethnicity **NON-HISPANIC** Eyes
 Marital Stat Build
 Residency **Non-Resident** Complex.
 SSN Home Ph # [REDACTED]
 Gang Work Ph # [REDACTED]
 Tattoo Cell Ph # [REDACTED] No Photo
 Clothing Other Ph # [REDACTED]
 E-Mail
 Employer
 GBM Id
 -Entered / /
 -Released / /
 OLN/State / Occupation **FIELD MANAGER - WEST MID**
 Addl Addr **None**
 Injury

Main Narrative
OFC. JONATHAN DECARMEN (4)

10/28/2016 14:26 - 4 OFC. JONATHAN DECARMEN

On the above listed date and time Shenango Township Officers responded to West Middlesex Airport (3685 Hubbard-Middlesex Rd) for a possible downed small aircraft. Dispatch advised that a third party caller stated the aircraft may of went down in the woods at the southwest corner of runway.

I arrived on location at approximately 1431 hours and proceeded to the area of the possible downed aircraft. The wooded area had very thick vegetation and I was unable to see anything resembling an aircraft. I began to yell hoping someone would respond. After yelling for several seconds I was able to hear a faint yell for help. I immediately proceeded in that direction while continuing to yell for a response. The vegetation was so dense and thick I was only able to move through the woods very slowly.

While searching for the downed aircraft both Paramedics and Fire arrived on location and we all proceeded to the person/s yelling for help. After approximately 15-20 minutes of searching first responders were able to make contact with the pilot and only occupant of downed ultra lite aircraft. The operator was identified as Gary Fobes, Fobes was conscious and talking to responders. Fobes stated that he did have shoulder and back pain but he believe he was not seriously injured. I did not see any visibly injuries on Fobes beside a few small scratches. His aircraft was White in Color and I was unable to observed any visible numbers or markings on it. He did stated that is was classified as an ultra light and did not have to be registered. The aircraft was upside down.

Fobes stated that he was traveling north preparing to land, when a gust of wind suddenly caused him to dive into the trees crashing. His son in who was also present at the airfield with his own plane was able to alert someone to have them contact first responders. Fobes was eventually extracted from the woods by police, fire and EMS and taken to St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Youngstown Ohio to be examined and treated for his injuries.

Supplemental Narrative
CHIEF JASON NEWTON (1)

SUPPLEMENTAL 11/01/2016 13:55 - 1 CHIEF JASON NEWTON

Supplemental Narrative
CHIEF JASON NEWTON (1)

SUPPLEMENTAL 11/01/2016 14:19 - 1 CHIEF JASON NEWTON

In relation to this incident, R/O arrived on scene and noted the following:

Once on scene, R/O assumed incident command of police functions during this operation. Officer DeCarmen advised R/O that he could hear a faint voice saying help coming from the wood line on the extreme southern end of the airstrip. As other police officers, fire and medical personnel were attempting to locate the site of the plane crash and victim(s), R/O made contact with the Mercer County EMA Director to advise of the incident. R/O also contacted Mercer County 911 Dispatch to notify the FAA and NTSB to brief these agencies as well due to the downed aircraft. It was noted that emergency personnel had an extremely hard time reaching the site due to heavy brush that surrounded the area.

As officers arrived at the crash site, they advised R/O that this was an ultralight aircraft and that the pilot operating the aircraft seemed to have minor injuries. Officers also advised that there was another person that was with the pilot and the aircraft when they arrived. Initially, it was thought that the other person on scene was also in the aircraft at the time of the crash, however, it was later learned that the other person heard the crash and entered the wooded area to locate it. R/O instructed officers on scene to take photographs of the site and to obtain pilot information.

A short time later, R/O received a phone call from Wendy Grimm from the FAA. Grimm asked about the particulars of the incident. R/O advised Grimm of what was known at the time of her phone call. After speaking with Grimm, R/O received a phone call from Brian Rayner from the NTSB, whom asked for information pertaining to the crash. At that time, R/O obtained more information and forwarded it to Rayner. Rayner was advised that a small ultralight aircraft went down into a heavily wooded/brush area just south of the West Middlesex Airport. The aircraft, as on-scene officers noted, was upside down and was leaking a small amount of fuel from its tank. On-scene officers also noted that there were no identifier markings/numbers on the aircraft. Rayner asked if officers could ask the pilot how much the aircraft weighed, to which the pilot stated that it was 285 lbs. Rayner asked if R/O could obtain any pictures of the aircraft/site and forward the pictures to him. At that time, R/O asked Officer Barnes to forward some pictures to R/O's personal phone. Once obtained, R/O forwarded those photographs to Rayner.

After speaking with Rayner, R/O made contact with a male subject that was walking on the airstrip. That male identified himself as Al Walker. Walker stated that he was the Field Manager at the airport. Walker stated that he was on the property of the airport when the incident happened, but did not see the crash. Walker further stated that the pilot, Gary Fobes, was at the airport most of the day with his ultralight. Walker said that Fobes was on his "third run" of the day and that Fobes was in the air for approximately 20 minutes prior to the crash. Walker made the statement that Fobes "should have never been that low" while coming in to land.

Weather conditions were clear, with no adverse conditions and a slight breeze at ground level.

Dispatch advised that the Latitude/Longitude for the airport are as follows:

Lat - 80:30:12.3089

Lon - 41:10:07.7028