



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Noreen Price
Aviation Accident Investigator
Alaska Regional Office

Date: May 21, 2019

Person Contacted: Cameron Benson, Metlakatla Volunteer Fire Dept EMT
NTSB Accident Number: ANC19FA019 N67667 Taquan Air DHC-2

Narrative: Mr. Benson responded to the Taquan DHC-2 accident that occurred on May 20, 2019, in Metlakatla Harbor. The interview was led by the NTSB investigator-in-charge, Noreen Price, and attended by FAA Safety Inspector, Jon Percy and another first responder, Jason Henry. This is a summary of Mr. Benson's statements.

- Mr. Benson was a volunteer EMT 1 with the Metlakatla Fire Department.
- At 1555 he heard a loud noise. He heard commotion on the CB radio and went to the State dock to help. He boarded the Triton, which was the Metlakatla police and fire rescue vessel.
- When they arrived at the scene, the Lady Liv was there. He jumped on the stern and then onto the fuselage of the airplane. There was no noise coming from the inside of the airplane. He banged on the fuselage and heard no response.
- Jason Henry then came and started moving mail and cargo through the left side cargo door.
- They couldn't get the airplane to float higher. The tail was 3 to 4 feet out of the water.
- Mr. Benson could not recall seeing the right wing.
- There were many boxes that obscured view of the cockpit. They could not see the occupants for a while.
- Then he saw the passenger with her arms floating above her body. He pulled on her, but she was stuck, maybe by the seat belt. Mr. Benson cut a black strap on her shoulder which freed her.
- The passenger had blood coming out of an ear and she was foaming at the mouth. She had no overt signs of life. Another EMT, Alonzo Leisholmn, jumped in to assist. They put a rope under her arms and pulled her to a boat where she was transported to the clinic.
- Another fishing vessel joined the effort to lift the nose and floats out of the water, but the airplane fell again.
- They moved more debris and uninstalled chairs and finally could see the pilot in the front of the airplane. They had to move another chair to get to him. He unlatched the seat restraint buckle, and

the lap belt and harness released, but the pilot was still stuck. The pilot was unconscious and had a severe head wound. He reached down and removed a shoe and was able to remove the pilot from the wreckage.

- The pilot was put on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife vessel and another EMT performed compressions as the pilot was transported to the shore.
- No one at the scene had exposure suits or dive gear.



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Date: May 21, 2019
Person Contacted: Alonzo Leisholmn, Metlakatla Fire Department, EMT3
NTSB Accident Number: ANC19FA019 N67667 Taquan Air DHC-2

Narrative: Mr. Leisholmn responded to the Taquan DHC-2 accident that occurred on May 20, 2019, in Metlakatla Harbor. The interview was led by the NTSB investigator-in-charge, Noreen Price, and attended by FAA Safety Inspector, Jon Percy. This is a summary of Mr. Leisholmn's statements.

- Mr. Leisholmn responded to the volunteer fire department page, although he did not know what it was for. He rode in the ambulance to the state dock where they met with the Triton rescue vehicle and then drove to the scene.
- The Lady Liv had the airplane tied to it. They all jumped onto the Lady Liv and noticed all the mail and freight inside of the inverted airplane.
- Mr. Leisholmn saw the passenger on the starboard side, and he jumped in. He had to remove ATV tires and debris that was in the way. Cameron cut the passenger's shoulder harness, and Mr. Leisholmn picked the passenger out of the wreckage while stabilizing her neck. It felt like her neck or jaw was broken and blood was coming out one ear. She was towed by rope under her arms and moved to a boat that transported her to shore.
- The Lady Liv captain and the responders tried to lift the airplane out of the water more to gain access to the pilot.
- More debris and two more seats were removed to facilitate access to the pilot. It took a long time.
- Once the pilot was freed, he was put on the US Fish and Wildlife boat and Mr. Leisholmn conducted CPR. Water and foam came out of the pilot's mouth and nose. He had a large head wound. Once the boat arrived at the state dock, the pilot was transferred to the ambulance.
- Mr. Leisholmn did not recall seeing the right wing.
- The weather was a "little windy" at the scene. There was a weird crosswind blowing toward Ketchikan.



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Date: May 21, 2019

**Person Contacted: Jason Henry, Metlakatla Police Department, Fire Department
Emergency Trauma Technician**

NTSB Accident Number: ANC19FA019 N67667 Taquan Air DHC-2

Narrative: Mr. Henry responded to the Taquan DHC-2 accident that occurred on May 20, 2019, in Metlakatla Harbor. The interview was led by the NTSB investigator-in-charge, Noreen Price, and attended by FAA Safety Inspector, Jon Percy and another first responder, Cameron Benson. This is a summary of Mr. Henry's statements.

- Mr. Henry was an Emergency Trauma Technician and a Metlakatla Police Department employee.
- On May 20, at 1600, a page went out for volunteers.
- The Medic One ambulance was backed down to the ramp.
- Mr. Henry, Cameron and Alonzo jumped on the boat and proceeded to the airplane.
- Mr. Henry climbed onto the belly of the airplane, which was inverted, and Alonzo and Cameron jumped in the water. They couldn't get the doors open. He heard them say "there is too much mail."
- Conrad Hudson tried to break the windows with a wrench.
- After they got the female passenger out, Alonzo did compressions and the Triton picked them up.
- Then they tied ropes around the floats and tried to pull the airplane out of the water. They were only able to pull it a couple of feet.
- The pilot was located and pulled out.
- Carson Winters witnessed the accident.
- The weather was "pretty windy" at the scene, about 10-15 knots.