

Kittitas County Sheriffs Office

Detail Incident Report

Incident Number: S19-00645

Reference Number:

Incident: AIRCRAFT PROBLEM/CRASH

Area:

Observed: Aircraft Problem

Location: 1310 TJOSSEM RD; EARTH
TECHNOLOGIES

When Reported: 16:46:25 01/17/19

Occurred Between: 16:45:56 01/17/19

And: 16:45:59 01/17/19

MENTIONED IN REPORT:

Name: TRUITT, NANCY M.

DOB: [REDACTED]

Race/Sex: /

Address:

Home Phone: [REDACTED]

Work Phone: () -


NARRATIVE:**Name:** GOEMAN, JASON

Kittitas County Sheriff's Office Uniform Incident Report

CASE #: S19-00645**CRIME:** Aircraft Crash**SUSPECT:****NARRATIVE:**

On 1/17/19 KCSO patrols were dispatched to a airplane crash near 1310 Tjossem Rd. Several reporting parties called to report that a plane had crashed into a field. I responded from the office and arrived on scene at 1652 hours. While enroute, Jeff Brunson, one of the reporting parties and property owners called 911 and advised that it appeared the pilot was deceased.

I arrived on scene with Deputy Romero and requested that she grab her camera to start taking pictures. As you travel down the driveway of 1310 Tjossem Rd, you reach a barn. The wreckage was approximately 300 yards to the SW of the barn. I walked out and observed the wreckage, which was scattered for approximately 150 yards in a NE to SW direction.



Along with KVFR Deputy Chief Elliot, I walked through the scene and did not observe what appeared to be any additional bodies. I observed that there appeared to be two engines in the debris. I located a section of aircraft that I believed to be part of the tail. The tail was brown in color and had the numbers 72 on it. I initially believed this to be part of the markings Cessna 172. I also located parts of the aircraft body that appeared to be an off white or cream color. Based on this I believed the plane to be two tones in color, off white with brown trim. I also located several pieces of bright yellow metal, which I believed to be from the inner frame of the plane.

The debris field was in a general cone shape from the point of impact with the ground moving from NE to SW. The entire debris field smelled heavily of aviation fuel. There were no pieces in the debris field that appeared to be an in tact piece of an airplane.

Scattered in the debris field were several financial documents with the name Frank Smith on them. I also located piece of paperwork addressed to Frank and Nancy Smith and listed the address of [REDACTED] in Wapato. At the time of this report, Yakima County SO has been asked to try to make contact with that address to try to determine who was piloting the aircraft.

I made contact with the FAA and NTSB by phone, and advised them of the situation in a conference call. While I was on the phone, Commander Higashiyama showed me a photograph of what appeared to be the owners manual of the plane, which listed the tail number of N14372. I provided this information to the FAA and NTSB, and they informed me that the plane was registered to Frank Smith of Wapato. They advised that they would send a team out during daylight hours on 1/18 to process the scene and to do their investigation.

The coroner's office was called and Coroner Henderson responded. He examined the scene and determined the best course of action was to wait until morning during daylight to try to collect all of the remains. KCSO Reserve Deputy Demiri will be stationed at the scene tonight for scene security.

Deputies also spoke to two witnesses. Jeff Brunson provided a statement stating that he was at his driveway at [REDACTED] when he heard a low flying plane. He looked up and saw a plane "diving down sideways." He then heard a bang and drove to find the wreckage at his field located at 1310 Tjossem Rd. Brunson described the plane as in a "nose down" position with the left wing lower than the right. He also said the pilot didn't have enough altitude to pull up.

Another witness, Dale Paul was at [REDACTED] when he heard airplane engines "gunning." He stated he looked up and saw a two engine airplane with the copilot wing angled down flying West. The pilot turned the stabilizer to try to fly to the South as well as pulling up. He said the plane impacted the ground at approximately 45 degree angle leading with the nose and copilot wing. Paul yelled for his landlord to call 911, and ran to the scene to check for survivors and found the body of the pilot who was obviously beyond help.

☐ NON-DISCLOSURE NAME(S):

Distribution:

- ☐ Upper District Court
- ☐ Lower District Court
- ☐ Detectives
- ☐ Prosecutor

☐ Case file

☐ Other: _____

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed at Ellensburg, Washington this 17th day of January 2019.

Deputy Name: Jason Goeman

Badge number: [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

Name: GOEMAN, JASON

Date: 21:03:55 01/17/19

KITTITAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

CASE #: S19-00645

CRIME: Aircraft crash

SUSPECT:

NARRATIVE:

On 1/17/19 at approximately 2005 hours, I made phone contact with Nancy Truitt, who is the wife of Frank Smith, the owner of the airplane. Truitt advised me that she was advised by a friend of theirs there had been a plane crash near Ellensburg. I explained to Truitt that there was indeed a plane crash near Ellensburg and the plane involved was registered to Frank Smith.

Truitt advised me she didn't know Smith was going to get the plane today, and stated he was going to fly the plane from Ellensburg to Yakima. She stated the plane was getting some hourly maintenance done on it. I presumed she meant the maintenance was done in Ellensburg, but I did not verify that with her.

I explained to Truitt that the pilot of the plane was deceased, but I was unable to verify if it was Frank Smith or not. Truitt told me it had to be him as he is the only one that would be in the plane, and that he was not at home which is unusual for him at this time of night.

I explained to Truitt that the FAA, NTSB, and the coroners office would be out in the morning to further examine the site and to try to identify the remains. Truitt was obviously upset during my phone call with her and was crying, and difficult to understand at times. I did not ask her any further identifying information about Smith due to her being upset already.

☐ NON-DISCLOSURE NAME(S):

Distribution:

☐ Upper District Court

☐ Lower District Court

☐ Detectives

☐ Prosecutor

☐ Case File

[] Other: _____

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed at Ellensburg, Washington this 17th day of January 2019.

Deputy Name: Jason Goeman

Badge #: [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENTAL NARRATIVE:

Name: THOMPSON, GRANT

Date: 08:57:56 01/21/19

KITTITAS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT

CASE #: S19-00645

CRIME: Aircraft Crash

SUSPECT: N/A

NARRATIVE:

On 01-17-2019, at approximately 1646 hours, Kittcom advised of a report of an aircraft crash in a field at 1310 Tjossem Road. I responded along with Deputy Goeman, Deputy Romero and several KVFR units.

I arrived at approximately 1652 hours along with Deputy Goeman and Deputy Romero. I began walking around the wreckage in an effort to locate any survivors. I was only able to find one occupant and that occupant was clearly deceased. I then exited the debris field and met with Jeffrey Thomas Brunson [REDACTED] who had witnessed the crash and called it in.

Brunson told me that he was at the end of his driveway at [REDACTED] when he heard the sound of a low flying plane overhead. Brunson said he looked up and saw that the plane was in a steep dive approximately 200-300 feet above the ground and the left wing was lower than the right wing. Brunson said that he heard a loud bang but did not see the plane actually hit the ground due to his view being obstructed. Brunson said he then drove over to 1310 Tjossem Road and saw that the plane had crashed into one of his hay fields. Brunson said that he called 9-1-1 and then searched the wreckage for any survivors and only found a deceased body. Brunson provided me with a written statement.

Once scene security was established, I was cleared to leave the scene. I handed the written statement Brunson had provided for me to Deputy Romero and departed. This concludes my involvement in the incident.

[] NON-DISCLOSURE NAME(S):

Distribution:

[] Upper District Court

[] Lower District Court

[] Detectives

[] Prosecutor

☒ Case File

☐ Other: _____

I declare under penalty of perjury, under the laws of the State of Washington, that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed at Ellensburg, Washington this Mon Jan 21 08:59:59 PST 2019

Deputy Name: Grant Thompson

Badge #: [REDACTED]
