

INTRODUCTION

On 07-20-21, a helicopter (N44XB) struck a power line when it was crop dusting fields of corn and set down in the corn field of the location. The helicopter left the accident location without reporting the accident to anyone. Later, the helicopter was found at Insight FS (Darlington, WI) and the pilot was identified as Joel NMI Olsen. Olsen was not injured in the accident, and the helicopter had minor damage to the sprayer boom.

LOCATION

4702 CTH S (corn field), Township of Mineral Point, County of Iowa, State of WI

MENTIONED

William J. Ottoway, M/W, [REDACTED], reporter/witness/off duty Mineral Point Police Officer

Cory A. Palzkill, M/W, [REDACTED], witness/property owner

Cooper J. Palzkill, M/W, [REDACTED], witness/juvenile

Larry Campbell, M/W, Insight FS Branch Manager-Darlington, WI

Joel Olsen, M/W, [REDACTED] helicopter pilot

Alliant Energy, property owner

Iowa County Airport, mentioned

MF Helicopters, helicopter owner

Mineral Point Fire Department, mentioned

Mineral Point EMS, mentioned

David Mullen, Deputy - LaFayette County Sheriff's Office

ENCLOSURES

- photographs
- body camera

NARRATIVE

On 07-20-21, I (Deputy Daniel T. Guentz, wearing full Iowa County Sheriff's Office summer uniform, working 1st shift, and assigned to fleet squad 2121) was advised to respond to the location for a helicopter (N44XB) that struck a power line when it was crop dusting fields of corn and set down in the corn field of the

location. Before my arrival, the helicopter left the accident location without reporting the accident to anyone. Alliant Energy repaired the damaged power line.

I spoke to William J. Ottoway, who witnessed the above helicopter accident, called law enforcement, and videoed a portion of the helicopter matter on his cellular telephone. Ottoway, a off duty Mineral Point Police Officer, was going to make a copy of the cellular video and forward it to me for purposes of attachment to this report.

Additionally, Cory A. Palzkill witness the helicopter accident. Cory A. Palzkill identified himself as the corn field property owner, where the helicopter landed and damaged a section of his corn crop. Also, Cory A. Palzkill advised me that his son (Cooper J. Palzkill-juvenile) was not present due to having to go to baseball practice, but he also witnessed the helicopter accident.

I took photographs of the damaged power line and damage to the corn crop. I located and collected a section of the sprayer boom (silver and partly orange in color metal rod with several black in color plastic pieces attached to it), which was left in the corn field. Later, I placed the sprayer boom piece in the Iowa County Sheriff's Office impound lot area (outdoors), as it still had hazardous material (fertilizer) liquid in and on it.

Later, Larry Campbell arrived (Insight FS Darlington, WI, manager) and explained he had the agricultural spraying operations contract with MF Helicopters. Campbell advised me that he received a call from his staff that the helicopter, which was involved in the accident, had landed at Insight FS in Darlington, WI. LaFayette County Sheriff's Office was advised to make contact with the pilot (later identified as Joel Olsen). Deputy Mullen (LaFayette County Sheriff's Office) made contact with Olsen, and stayed with Olsen until I arrived there.

STATEMENTS TAKEN

On 07-20-21, Ottoway explained the following:

- he saw a helicopter spraying the corn field at a high rate of speed, hit the power line, and go down in another corn field near the accident location
- the helicopter was traveling from the east to the west at a low altitude

- the helicopter landed upright in a corn field
- the unknown pilot exited the helicopter and he was not hurt
- the unknown pilot examined the helicopter and took off without saying anything to anyone
- he had a partial cellular telephone video of the helicopter crash
- Ottoway was going to download his cellular telephone video at the Mineral Point Police Department, as he is a Police Officer (off duty), and forward the copied video to me to attach to this report (a copy of the above cellular telephone video will be attached to this report for further information, after it is received)

On 07-20-21, Cory A. Palzkill explained the following:

- he saw the helicopter was traveling from east to the west at a low altitude, as it was spraying his neighbor's corn field
- the helicopter hit the power line wire and went down in his corn field, which was near the accident location
- the impact with the power line caused the helicopter make an emergency landing in his corn field
- the helicopter landed upright and the pilot got out of the helicopter unhurt by giving a thumbs up signal
- the pilot got back into the helicopter and "took off" (left the area) in the helicopter without saying a word
- his son (Cooper J. Palzkill-juvenile) saw the accident, but was not around because he had to go to baseball practice. He provided me with all of Cooper J. Palzkill's personal information in case I needed to contact him later
- he took down some farm fencing to allow me into the corn field so I could take photographs of the damage to his corn and collect any parts of helicopter
- he estimated the damage to his corn crop to be about \$25.00

On 07-20-21, Joel Olsen explained the following:

- he acknowledged that he was the pilot of the helicopter involved in the accident
- he was not injured in the accident

- he pointed out the helicopter (N44X8-tail number/vin 1215), and later the damaged boom area (photographs are attached to this report for further information)
- he provided me with his pilot license, pilot medical card, and CA drivers license (copy of the above items are attached to this report for further information)
- after striking the power line, he was able to land the helicopter without any difficulty in the corn field, checked
- he landed the helicopter upright in the corn field, exit the helicopter, checked the helicopter for damage, waited for his oil pressure warning light to go off, and then left the location
- he left the location without making contact with people that were yelling bad things to him, or notifying law enforcement
- he left the location, as he was in a hurry to continue his agricultural spraying of other crop fields before it got to late
- he had no further problems flying the helicopter for the remainder of the spraying operation, and then landed at Insight FS (Darlington, WI), as he normal does
- he did not consider the incident an accident, as only the sprayer boom was damaged after striking the power line and the helicopter itself had no damage to it
- he planned on telling his company about the incident, and then they would make contact with the damaged property owners to make a settlement with them
- he provided me with his telephone number, the local hotel he was staying until 07-21-21, and his company's information (MF Helicopters)
- he understood that I would be reporting this matter to the FAA for possible further investigation into the incident

On 07-21-21, I talked to and reported the incident to Maria Raatz (FAA). Raatz requested a copy of this report be forwarded to the FAA for further investigation matters.

PHOTOGRAPHS

- Yes

STATEMENT OF NON-CONSENT

- Neither Alliant Energy nor Cory A. Palzkill gave Olsen permission to damage their property.

DISPOSITION

Please forward a copy of this report to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Iowa County Airport for any follow up considerations.

END OF REPORT