



Bonner County Sheriff's Office

MEDIA RELEASE



October 14, 2015

Fatal Plane Crash Update

Bonner County and officials are continuing their efforts to identify the pilot and passengers from the downed 182 Cessna aircraft that crashed on October 8, 2015. The plane crashed in a rugged remote area on Round Top Mountain near Hope, Idaho. The remains of the occupants known to have been in the aircraft at the time it crashed have been turned over to the Bonner County Coroner's office and are being examined.

On October 11th, 30 members from Priest Lake Search & Rescue (PLSAR), three cadaver dogs and Air-1 Sandpoint Helicopters assisted Sheriff's personnel at the crash site. PLSAR had two missions: The first was to locate and identify potential human remains or items of evidentiary value not already identified in the area of the crash site. The second mission was to attempt to locate a 74 year old male who was reported as a lost hunter the night before. An extensive ground search was conducted. The lost hunter was located at approximately 1:00 p.m. He was brought down off the mountain by searches and was found to be in excellent health. The third plane crash victim was not located on that day. Sheriff Wheeler said, "There was an incredible effort given this day by Priest Lake Search & Rescue to hike up and down this mountain and find the lost hunter. They did an exceptional job!"

On October 13, 2015 Sheriff's Office investigators returned to the site and were present when the wreckage was removed from the mountain top. Investigators were able to thoroughly examine the areas underneath the heavy wreckage. Additional evidence was recovered before and after the aircraft was removed.

Sheriff Daryl Wheeler said, "Our ultimate goal is to provide as much information and closure for the families as possible."

The wreckage will be available for investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) and the FAA to examine further. A preliminary accident report by the NTSB can be found in a few days at www.nts.gov. The accident report is #WPR16FA006. The NTSB media contact is 202.314.6100. Please refer all media inquiries to the NTSB. Our office will not comment on the plane crash portion of this investigation.

Any inquires as to the identification of the victims should be directed to Bonner County Coroner Kit Rose.



Captain Ror Lakewold - Public Information

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