



Bonner County Sheriff's Office

MEDIA RELEASE



October 9, 2015

Fatal Plane Crash Update

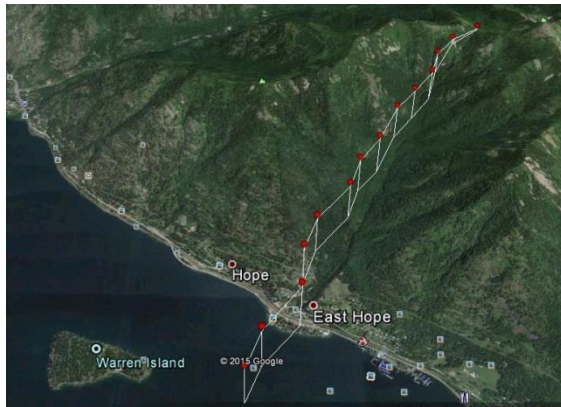
The Bonner County Sheriff's Office is continuing its investigation of the plane crash that occurred on October 8, 2015. Preliminary investigation revealed that on October 8, a Cessna 182 aircraft owned by Dr. Pamela Bird, 58 years, left the Bird Field at 8:16 a.m. She was flying in the left seat of the plane. Tookie Hensley, 80 years, was also onboard sitting in the right seat. Donald Hensley, 84 years, was onboard sitting in the back seat. The flight plan was to travel to Minot, North Dakota, then on to Bar Harbor, Maine and finally on to Gainesville, Florida. At 8:26 am, the plane's Emergency Locator Transmitter beacon activated, indicating the airplane possibly crashed, and later that afternoon, it was confirmed it had. A report from the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center indicated just prior to the crash, the airplane was traveling 47 knots and 71' above ground level.

The location of the downed aircraft and debris field was identified with the assistance of multiple resources which immediately responded to this crisis. The Civil Air Patrol, based in Coeur d'Alene, was first to obtain a radar track for the downed aircraft. Civil Air Patrol flew the area, and ultimately identified the crash site. During their fly-overs, Civil Air Patrol was able to obtain a partial tail number from the downed plane, which led to the positive identification. The Civil Air Patrol remained in the area and coordinated with Sheriff's Office officials and other responding air assets, such as, Air-1 Sandpoint Helicopters; Two Bear Air Rescue, a volunteer group based in White Fish, Montana; and the Idaho Transportation Department Aeronautics Division. Two Bear Air Rescue immediately responded with a helicopter, which landed near the crash site, and actually put two emergency responders on the ground to assess the situation first-hand and to provide aid to any survivors.

At 8:30 this morning, detectives from the Sheriff's Office, an investigator from the FAA and Bonner County Coroner Kit Rose were flown into the crash site by Dennis Hanson of Eagle Helicopters, Inc., based out of Felts Field in Spokane. The teams recovered the remains of those individuals in the front left and right seat of the aircraft and are pending positive identification. The remains of the third person have not been located. At the time of this release, investigators were unable to confirm if another victim was under the aircraft due to the size and scope of the wreckage.

Priest Lake Search & Rescue has been dispatched to assist in this operation. This plane crash remains under investigation and update will be provided when new information becomes available.

Our hearts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones affected by this very unfortunate tragedy.



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