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Exact cause of Correctionville, Iowa, plane crash will take year to determine

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Lauren Mills, Sioux City Journal file

Investigators inspect debris from a plane crash near Correctionville, Iowa, on Dec. 2. It will more than a year to compile a final report of the crash, which killed two.

December 11, 2012 11:00 am • NICK HYTREK nhytrek@siouxcityjournal.com (0) Comments

CORRECTIONVILLE, Iowa | It could be more than a year before investigators determine the cause of a fatal plane crash near Correctionville.

National Transportation Safety Board spokesman Eric

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Weiss said Tuesday that the final report on the Dec. 1 crash would be completed in 12-18 months.

"The final report would not only include what happened, but how it happened, including probable cause," Weiss said.

An NTSB preliminary accident investigation report issued Monday said the small plane hit some trees before crashing at approximately 7:50 p.m. about half a mile northeast of a grass airstrip between Iowa Highway 31 and the Little Sioux River.

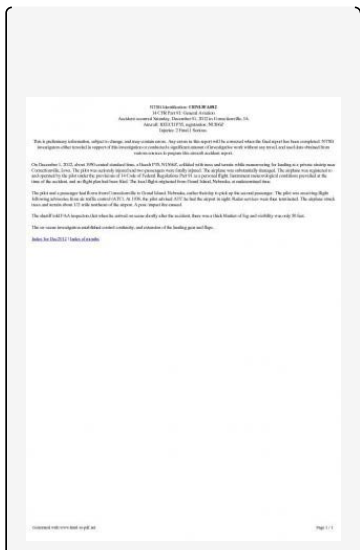
The report said that despite the foggy conditions that evening, the pilot, Gaylen Knaack, told air traffic controllers that he had the airstrip in sight. A Woodbury County sheriff's deputy told investigators that when he arrived at the scene, there was a thick blanket of fog and visibility was only about 50 feet.

Weiss said the foggy conditions would be investigated and that what role, if any, they played in the crash would be included in the final report.

"That will be part of the investigation. Everything will be taken into account. That includes the man, the machine and the environment," Weiss said.

The crash killed two passengers, 53-year-old Lee Schroeder, of Oto, Iowa, and 55-year-old James Smith, of Correctionville. Knaack, 70, also of Correctionville, is being treated for severe burns at St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln. He was listed in fair condition Tuesday.

The NTSB says the Beech P35 took off from Correctionville that morning and flew to Grand Island, Neb., to pick up one of the passengers. It crashed when it returned to Correctionville.



Correctionville, Iowa, plane crash survivor in critical condition

Gaylen Knaack, 70, has severe burns and is being treated at St. Elizabeth Regional Medical Center in Lincoln. [Read more](#)

Officials release names of Correctionville plane crash victims



Officials Sunday released the names of the

three occupants of the plane that crashed Saturday night south of Correctionville, killing both pas... [Read more](#)

2 killed in plane crash near Correctionville



Two people were killed Saturday night and a third, the

pilot, was injured when a small airplane crashed about 2.5 miles south of Correctionville. [Read more](#)

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Visit siouxcityjournal.com to read the preliminary report about the Correctionville, Iowa, plane crash.

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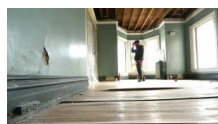
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