For Immediate Release
August 1, 2012

Update re. Airplane Crash at Albert Whitted Airport

Crash Victims;

James Allen Finnegan, W/M, 02/28/33 of 219 Rialto Way NE, St. Petersburg (Deceased)

James Patrick Murphy, W/M, 04/13/75 of 10800 Brighton Bay Blvd, #1708, St. Petersburg

Aircraft Information; Luscombe, Model 8A, two seat, single engine aircraft built in 1947

Based on preliminary information investigators believe the plane was being piloted and is owned by the deceased, Mr. James Finnegan. Mr. Finnegan had previous flight experience, but had not piloted a plane for number of years and was taking refresher training instruction from James Murphy at the time of the crash.

Mr. Murphy’s injuries are not life threatening and he is speaking with investigators.

FAA investigators have arrived at the crash site and requested that the scene be held overnight for further examination in the morning.

The cause of the crash has yet to be determined.

Previous Release of 15:09, 08/01/12

At about 1:55 a.m. we were notified of an airplane crash at Albert Whitted Airport, 107 8th Avenue SE.

Responding fire rescue and police units located two men inside of the plane who were extricated and transported to Bayfront Medical Center. One of the plane’s occupants has been pronounced deceased while the other has been listed as a trauma alert, but is believed to be in stable condition at this time.

According to officers on the scene, the plane involved is single engine aircraft which was taking off from Albert Whitted’s runway # 25, west bound. According to a witness as the plane began to ascend, at a height of 50 to 100 feet, the engine was heard to sputter and the plane nose dived into the runway.

The plane’s intended destination is not know at this time.

At this time the FAA has been notified and their investigators are in route to the scene to determine the cause of the crash.

We are still awaiting the notification of the next of kin, before we released the names of the occupants.

Information released by Mike Puetz, 727-893-7550, michael.puetz@stpete.org

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