UPDATE re. Plane Crash at Albert Whitted Airport

The plane involved in this afternoon’s crash is a Piper PA23, the property of Aerial Banners Incorporated. Company representatives are in route to the scene from Ft Lauderdale. The company supposedly has a local office, but I do not have that address at this time.

The pilot has been tentatively identified as a 70 year old male, but we are still attempting to locate next of kin.

The plane is currently fully submerged in about 25 feet of water and will likely be extracted sometime tomorrow.

In terms of the rescue, a U.S. Coast Guard vessel was first on the scene an estimated 6 minutes after the crash, followed shortly thereafter by a St. Petersburg Police boat.

Due to the depth of the water and murky condition, drivers from St. Petersburg Fire Rescue had to be brought to the scene to help extract the pilot. When his body was found, he was still strapped into the cockpit seat.

The Medical Examiner’s Office will make a final determination as to the cause of death.

FAA investigators are on the scene and will be conducting the investigation from this point on.

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Previous release Sun Aug 31, 2014 16:27:39

Plane Crash at Albert Whitted Airport

We are current on the scene of a plane crash that occurred in the water about 75 yards south of the seawall at Albert Whitted Airport. Rescuers responded to
the scene of the crash and extracted the pilot who was found to be deceased. His body was transported to the Coast Guard base near the airport.

The plane belongs to an advertisement banner towing company based at the airport. According to witnesses the pilot had just picked up a banner and was beginning to climb when popping noise could be heard coming from the plane. The plane then appeared to nose down and crash into the water.

The initial call came into us at about 2:58 p.m.

I should some additional details later this afternoon.

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