

JAMAICA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

ACCIDENT INVESTIGATION

FINAL REPORT

Occurrence Number: JA-2009-07

Type of Occurrence:

Loss of control on landing.

Owner's Name:

Mark Koral Holdings Ltd. Inc.

Type of Aircraft:

Piper PA-34-200 Seneca.

Registration:

N62SA

Occurrence Location:

On a mining road near to Swallenburg, St. Ann, Jamaica, owned by the West Indies Alumina Company (WINDALCO).

Date and Time:

Approximately 9:30 AM, 03 August 2009.

HISTORY OF THE FLIGHT

The aircraft was reported to have been stolen from North Eleuthera Airport, Bahamas on the morning of the accident, 03 August 2009.

There was no information available regarding the flight. No flight plan had been filed, and there was no trace of the aircraft on the Jamaica Civil Aviation Authority's Air Traffic Control radar recordings.

Witnesses reported seeing the aircraft fly overhead the landing area, but there were no witnesses to the landing and crash of the aircraft.

The wreckage pattern and other evidence indicated that the aircraft was landed on a short stretch of up hill road, about 800 feet in length and forty feet wide, and that the right wing tip contacted the bank on the right side of the road, causing a loss of directional control, a collision with the bank and the subsequent fire and explosion.

PERSONS ON BOARD THE AIRCRAFT

It was determined that there were two male persons on board. There was no evidence of any other occupants on board.

INJURIES TO PERSONS

The two occupants of the aircraft died in the post-crash fire of severe burns.

DAMAGE TO AIRCRAFT

The aircraft's fuselage was completely destroyed in the post-crash fire. The empennage and wings outboard of the engines were damaged by impact but not burned.

Damage to the propellers indicated low power at the time of impact. The landing gear was extended.

METEOROLOGICAL INFORMATION

The evidence indicated that the weather at the accident site at the time of the accident was good for Visual Flight Rules flight.

OTHER INFORMATION

Records showed that the aircraft had been flown from Fort-Lauderdale – Hollywood International Airport to North Eleuthera Airport, Bahamas on 16 July 2009.

No information was available regarding the pilot and passenger.

It was not possible to determine the weight and centre of gravity of the aircraft on take off and landing.

Only the two front seats of the aircraft were installed.

The Jamaica Defense Force and the Jamaica Constabulary Force had been informed that the aircraft would land on the road to pick up a load of marijuana, and personnel of these forces were waiting for the arrival of the aircraft.

Two heavy duty trucks used for hauling bauxite were found, one at each end of the straight strip of road upon which the aircraft landed.

The melted remains of what appeared to have been two blue plastic drums were found, one on either side of the road at the point where the aircraft landed, with large scorch marks on the road and nearby vegetation in the direction in which the aircraft landed.

Near the accident site the police recovered 1,000 pounds of compressed marijuana and arrested four men.

As the fuselage was completely destroyed by post-crash fire, no documentation or identification of the aircraft or the pilot and passenger survived the accident.

ANALYSIS

The evidence indicates that the aircraft was stolen for the purpose of illegally transporting compressed marijuana from Jamaica to an undetermined destination.

The evidence indicates that the pilot lost directional control of the aircraft during the landing roll on the road, resulting in the right wing tip contacting the bank on the right hand side of the road, and the subsequent damage to the aircraft and its destruction by fire.

It is probable that the two blue plastic drums had contained aviation fuel for the aircraft's return journey, and that the fuel in them ignited during the crash sequence.

The complicity of persons in Jamaica was evident from the use of the bauxite trucks to block off the landing stretch of the road, and the 1,000 pounds of compressed marijuana found nearby, as well as the arrest of the four men found in the area.

FINDINGS

FINDINGS AS TO CAUSES AND CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

The aircraft was intentionally landed on a roadway, i.e. a surface not designed for the operation of aircraft.

FINDINGS AS TO RISK

Not applicable.

OTHER FINDINGS

None.

SAFETY ACTION

None.