
LANE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE



CASE NUMBER: 11-5697

DATE/TIME OF INCIDENT: 08-06-11 7:53 am

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NATURE OF STORY: Airplane Crash

LOCATION: McKenzie River, upstream from Bellinger Boat Landing, northeast of Springfield

INVOLVED: John Proctor, 65 - of Rosebud, Texas

DETAILS:

Shortly before 8 AM on August 6, 2011 the Lane County Sheriff's Office received a report of a plane crash in the McKenzie River upstream from Bellinger boat landing northeast of Springfield. Initial calls reported the tail section of small aircraft sticking out of the water.

A Lane County Search & Rescue boat crew was dispatched. First reports indicated no movement around the aircraft, however the caller was able to gain a better vantage point and ultimately saw one individual standing on the portion of the aircraft that was above the water. The rescue boat launched from Bellinger and maneuvered to the aircraft where the pilot, identified as 65-year-old John Proctor, of Rosebud Texas, was still standing on top of the partially submerged plane. The boat crew maneuvered to a position where Proctor could be picked up from the aircraft and ferried to shore.

Proctor, a former Oregon resident traveling in the area, reported that his original destination this morning had been Detroit Lake but visibility in the area was poor. He elected to try and find an alternative landing area for his aircraft. The plane, a 1990 Siewert Irving is a single engine, bi-plane, equipped with floats for water landings and Proctor was attempting to land on the river and wait for weather conditions to improve. Upon landing Proctor believes one of his aircraft floats may have struck some partially submerged debris causing the aircraft to nose into the water. Proctor was uninjured in the incident.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were both contacted, as is standard procedure in the event of aircraft accidents. The FAA released the aircraft to Proctor and will conduct follow-up investigation at a later time.

Prepared by: Capt. Bill Thompson

<http://www.airport-data.com/aircraft/N33035.html> for a photo of a 1990 Siewert Irving aircraft, based on the registration number this is the aircraft involved in the incident.