



NEWS RELEASE

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HELICOPTER CRASH SOUTH NOGALES HIGHWAY AND EAST HUGHES ACCESS ROAD

On the morning of December 14, 2011, Tucson Police Department personnel responded to a reported downed aircraft southwest of the Tucson International Airport. The pilot, who was the sole occupant, was transported to a local trauma center with apparently non-life threatening injuries.

At approximately 9:35 a.m., a Tucson Police Department Air Support Unit aircrew was conducting a training flight near the Tucson International Airport when the pilot heard a distress call on the aircraft radio system from a nearby helicopter. The Air Support Unit relayed the flight emergency situation to officers on the ground, and responded to the area. The police aircrew arrived at the scene of the crash just moments later and located the wreckage of a small, civilian helicopter in an undeveloped desert area on the southwestern portion of the Raytheon Missile Systems facility, which is on the southwestern boundary of the Tucson International Airport. The police aircrew directed emergency responders on the ground to the location of the crash site. Agencies including the Tucson Police Department, Tucson Fire Department, Tucson Airport Authority, 162nd Fighter Wing, and Raytheon Fire Department responded to the scene to assist with the rescue efforts.

Investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) have responded to the scene and are conducting the investigation into the factors that led to the crash. The NTSB is the independent federal agency tasked with determining the probable cause in aircraft accident investigations. The Tucson Police Department will assist the NTSB as necessary as the investigation continues at the scene.

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