

Press Release

From: Mountain View Fire Protection District

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For immediate Release

Grandfather and grandson injured in air plane crash

Erie, Colo- 2 people were injured, one seriously this morning when a small plane crashed just west of the Erie Airport. The crashed happened in a field just north of Hwy 7 at County Line Rd.

According to officials from the Mountain View Fire Protection District, the plane had just taken off from the Erie airport after fueling up at approximately 10:00 am. The flight plan indicated that the pair was on their way to the Greeley Airport.

On board were a 16 year old male and 68 old male. The relationship between the two is grandfather and grandson.

The 16 year old sustained serious head, abdominal and extremity injuries but are not classified as life threatening. The grandfather is said to have head, chest and extremity injuries as well but are less severe as his grandson's and are classified as moderate.

Both were taken by ground ambulances to Exempla Good Samaritan Hospital in Lafayette.

A privately owned helicopter flying in the vicinity saw the crash and landed. Aboard the helicopter was an off-duty paramedic. He rendered aid until crews from Mountain View Fire arrived.

The grandfather was piloting the plane. The plane's cockpit is configured so the co-pilot sits behind the pilot.

"The pilot radioed a mayday reporting engine problems just after take off. The crash was just minutes later" said Jess Hodgson, spokesperson for the Mountain View Fire Protection District.

Officials speculate after reporting the engine problems, that the pilot tried to make it back to the airport but his attempts were unsuccessful.

"Witnesses reported the plane seemed out of control and narrowly missed some nearby storage units." Said Hodgson,

When the plane hit the ground it cart wheeled several times before coming to rest.

According to FAA records from the tail number, N41832, the plane is listed as a 2004 experimental, amateur-built Flynn Van Munk two-seater aircraft. The air craft was certified in 2006 and was made to look like a vintage WWII plane.

No other injuries were reported on the ground. Fire officials confirmed there were 25 gallons of fuel on board but no fuel leaks and no fire after the crash.