



City of Riverside Fire Department NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 28, 2008
Contact: Mike Esparza, Fire Battalion Chief - PIO
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SMALL PLANE CRASH NEAR RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL AIRPORT (RAL)

Riverside, CA – On Wednesday, February 27, 2008, at 10:07 p.m., Riverside City Fire and Police responded to reports of an airplane crash near the Riverside Municipal Airport. Police officers and firefighters arrived within minutes observing that that a small four seat Mooney Aircraft had crash landed at the 8700-block of Pembroke Avenue. The plane was on fire as was well as a parked car and two palm trees. The fire was put under control within 10 minutes of the fire departments arrival. Unfortunately, the three occupants of the plane did not survive the crash.

According to eyewitnesses, the plane took off from the RAL Airport and appeared to have engine trouble. The plane lost altitude while flying over a residence on Pembroke Ave. and then crashed into a parked car. The plane caught on fire upon impact and immediately spread to a car and two palm trees. Additional eyewitness reports indicate that the pilot made a significant effort to avoid the homes and just narrowly missed electrical lines near the home. Two of the witnesses were within 30 feet of the plane when it crashed.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board are investigating the accident. Riverside Police are supporting the scene investigation, which is expected to last into the late afternoon. The immediate area will be closed to the public in order to complete the accident investigation.

Incident #: 08-004505
Incident Name: Pembroke
Date: 2/27/08
Address of Incident: 8700 Block Pembroke Ave.
Time of Alarm: 10:08 p.m.
Type of Incident: Alert 3 – Plane Crash.
Units Responded: B2, B1, E5, E7, S5, T3, R3, E3, CH1, and Investigator 4.
Assisting Agencies: Riverside Police. American Medical Response, FAA, NTSB,
Damage Estimate: One Car and One Mooney 20C aircraft completely destroyed.
Actual damage estimate to be determined later.
Cause: Under investigation by FAA and NTSB.

Note: PIO contact after 8:00 a.m. today will be transferred to Fire Division Chief Mike Fisher at (951) 264-6432 and Police PIO Steven Frasher at (951) 826-5147.
