



PRESS RELEASE
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Alaska National Guard
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Plane wreckage and pilot located southwest of Merrill Pass

JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON, Alaska —Alaskan bush pilot, David McRae, and his aircraft were located this morning southwest of Merrill Pass in the Alaska Range at an elevation of about 6,500 feet. McRae was recovered from the scene, transported and released to the state medical examiner at Providence Alaska Medical Center in Anchorage early this afternoon. His family has been notified. The National Transportation Safety Board will be investigating.

Poor weather hampered search efforts for six days until weather cleared today. Due to improved weather conditions, the Civil Air Patrol was able to safely join in the search effort this morning, and the CAP spotted wreckage shortly after sunrise.

McRae was flying alone from Lake Hood in Anchorage, en route to Port Alsworth in Lake Clark National Park and Preserve early Friday evening. The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center received indication of an aircraft 406 Beacon activation and sent search crews to the vicinity of the transmitted coordinates, but the search that evening was limited due to very poor weather and visibility.

For questions about the search, please contact Lt. Col. Candis Olmstead, Alaska National Guard, at 907-428-6030 or candis.olmstead@alaska.gov. For questions about the park area and conditions, please contact Megan Richotte, National Park Service, at 907-644-3639 or megan_e_richotte@nps.gov. For questions about the accident investigation, please contact Clint Johnson, National Transportation Safety Board, at 907-782-4842 or clint.johnson@ntsb.gov.

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