



SHERIFF KOOTENAI COUNTY



SHERIFF **BEN WOLFINGER**

UNDERSHERIFF **DAN MATTOS**

MEDIA RELEASE

Airplane Crash

05/21/2017

On 05/21/17 at around 4:00 P.M. Deputies from the Kootenai County Sheriff's Office and personnel from the Northern Lakes Fire Department and the Coeur d' Alene Airport responded to a report of an airplane in distress.

It was reported to the Coeur d' Alene Airport, by the pilot, James T. Ostrich a 62 year old male from Redding California, that he had possible landing gear issues. James communicated with airport personnel to conduct a "Fly-By" to get the status of the aircrafts landing gear. As the aircraft made the "Fly-By" it was determined the front landing gear was not all the way out.

James decided to attempt a controlled landing at the airport, and circled the airport to burn off excess fuel. At 4:30 P.M. the aircraft landed safely on the runway. The front landing gear did collapse when it touched down, but the pilot was able to keep the nose up long enough to prevent any major damage or injury.

The aircraft was described as a 1956 Beech, fixed wing, single-engine plane with only one occupant. The pilot James T. Ostrich was not injured in the controlled landing. The investigation was handed over to the FAA and the CDA Airport.

Sheriff Ben Wolfinger
By: Sergeant Ryan Higgins
Report # 17-16909