

**SHERIFF**  
**James D Nyland Sr.**  
**435-259-8115**



**CHIEF DEPUTY**  
**Curt Brewer**  
**435-259-8115**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

At 5:55 p.m. on August 22, 2008, the Grand County Sheriff's Office was notified of a large fire in a desert area southwest of the Canyonlands Airport. This report caused immediately and significant concern because the area of desert where the fire was reported lacks vegetation. Because of the proximity to the airport a potential crash was the most likely explanation for this fire. The Utah Highway Patrol Helicopter was stationed in Moab for a motorcycle event. Two Detectives from the Grand County's Sheriff's Office were immediately flown to the remote area where the fire was reported to be burning. Investigators located a downed aircraft which was fully engulfed in flames. Fire suppression personnel responded immediately but had a difficult time accessing the scene. None of the occupants of the plane survived the crash.

As of 8:00 a.m. this morning, August 23, 2008, the National Transportation Safety Board and the Utah State Medical Examiner's Office are conducting an investigation with the assistance of the Grand County Sheriff's Office and Grand County Search and Rescue.

The following occupants are all believed to be from Cedar City, Utah:

Pilot David White, age unknown  
Dr. Lansing Ellsworth, Dermatologist, age unknown  
David Goddard, medical assistant, age unknown  
Mandy Johnson, 19–20 year old female  
Marcie Tillery, 29 year old female  
Valerie Imlay, 52 year old female  
Dallon Ellsworth, 24 year old male  
Keith Shumway, 29 year old male  
Cami Vigil, 25 year old female  
Cecilee Goddard, 25 year old female

At this time, it is our understanding that Dr. Ellsworth has been coming to Moab, Grand County on a monthly basis to provide medical care as a dermatologist. After completing appointments for the day of August 22, 2008, it is believed that the parties were taking off from the Canyonlands Airport en route to Cedar City and crashed shortly after take off.

The exact cause of the crash remains undetermined at this time.

It has been confirmed that the aircraft is a Twin Engine King Air aircraft. The plane owner is Mark Orkerland of the Leavitt Group.

If you are requesting information about the victims, please contact Sheriff Gower at the Iron County Sheriff's Office, 435-867-7550.

Later this afternoon information will be available at Grand County Sheriff's Office regarding the date and time of the press conference from the NTSB. The Grand County Sheriff's Office phone number is 435-259-8115.

Any and all media questions about this investigation will be answered exclusively by the National Transportation Safety Board Investigator.