

Planes in Fatal Crash Owned by Aviation Agencies' Employees



By Alan Levin

(Bloomberg) U.S. aviation accident investigators have obtained help from Canada to investigate a collision yesterday between two small planes that were owned by employees of separate federal aviation agencies.

A plane owned by a National Transportation Safety Board employee collided over Sumerduck, Virginia, with another small aircraft owned by a Federal Aviation Administration employee, according to an e-mail release from the NTSB.



Two people in the NTSB employee's plane died, the release said. The sole occupant of the FAA-owned plane, Thomas Proven, survived the collision, Corinne Geller, a spokeswoman for the Virginia State Police, said in an interview.

Proven, 70, works as an accident investigator with the FAA, the agency said in an e-mail statement. He was off duty at the time of the accident, according to the statement.

The Virginia Office of the Chief Medical Examiner didn't respond to a call seeking the identity of the NTSB employee and the second occupant of the plane.

Because the accident involved U.S. government employees, NTSB Chairman Debbie Hersman, after consulting FAA acting Administrator Michael Huerta, asked the Transportation Safety Board of Canada to handle the investigation, the agency said in the release.

The NTSB, an independent agency that reports directly to the White House, determines the cause of aviation accidents and makes non-binding safety recommendations. The FAA regulates the aviation industry.