



PHOTO BY OCONEE COUNTY EMERGENCY SERVICES

The crash was reported just before 1 p.m. Wednesday near the dam at Lake Jocassee close to Devils Fork State Park.

# No injuries in plane crash

BY NORM CANNADA  
THE JOURNAL

SALEM — No one was injured, and a damaged plane was towed to shore without sinking after it crashed in Lake Jocassee on Wednesday afternoon.

The crash was reported just before 1 p.m. Wednesday near the dam

at the lake close to Devils Fork State Park. Interim Oconee County Fire Chief Scott Krein said “civilians” in pontoon boats rescued the two people in the plane and helped to keep the plane from sinking before rescue workers arrived.

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A diver works to pull the back end of the crashed plane toward the shore.



PHOTO BY JOHNATHON EDWARDS

A plane was towed by boat to a dock about two and a half hours after the crash in Lake Jocassee was reported Wednesday.



Medics were sent out to the pontoon boat to check on the two people that Krein said are both pilots. He said they "refused medical treatment and had no injuries." No one else was on the plane.

The Journal confirmed a man and woman were on the plane at the time of the crash and were uninjured. They were at the dock where the plane was towed to, but declined to comment to The Journal about the crash or give their names.

Susan J. Van Fleet of Central was listed as the registered owner of the fixed-wing, single-engine plane, which was manufactured in 1977, according to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Registry.

A statement from the FAA identified the plane as a Cessna 172 seaplane. The FAA statement said the plane "crashed while attempting to take off from Lake Jocassee in Salem, S.C."

Krein said the plane had done "multiple takeoffs and landings" on the lake and "something went wrong."

He added rescuers arrived on the scene with four boats to help make sure the two people on the plane were OK and to secure the damaged plane with airbags and tow it back to shore to make sure the aircraft didn't sink and create an environmental hazard. The plane was towed by boat to a dock about two and a half hours after the crash was reported.

"Our first priority is the safety of the passengers," Krein said. "We did smell fuel, but have not determined a leak. It's a pristine lake and we want to protect it."

Krein said about 20-25 emergency responders

helped in the rescue. In addition to Oconee County Emergency Services, responders also arrived from the Oconee County Sheriff's Office, Pickens County Emergency Management, Salem Fire Department and the Oconee Hazmat team.

"It was a phenomenal response and all people involved — including the civilians that helped — all of that together made this happen as quickly and as safely as possible," Krein said of the rescue efforts. "The pilots did a good job keeping it cool and doing the right things when the accident happened. Everyone to-

gether made this happen to keep the plane from sinking, helping the people from getting injured more, and getting it safely

to shore so that we could mitigate it."

The FAA said in its statement the agency is investigating the crash

and the "National Transportation Safety Board will determine the proba-

ble cause of the accident."

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