

## DDSP Fire Department Assists Neighboring Fire Department in Local Plane Crash

By Jessica Gonzalez, DDSP Public Safety

On Saturday, June 25, at 12:38 p.m., the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna, PA, (DDSP) Police Department received unconfirmed reports that an aircraft went down during take off from the Capital City Airport, located in New Cumberland, PA. The airport borders DDSP's property but the precise location of the crash was unknown at that time. DDSP Police and Fire Department are the closest response units to the airport and they are prepared with basic aircraft fighting capabilities for such emergencies.

A family of four from Tennessee had departed for Connecticut from the Capital City Airport in a single-engine Piper Cherokee. The plane went down in a trailer park on Lewisberry Road, located about 1,000 feet away from the runway. The explosion from the Piper's impact ignited two bordering mobile homes, leaving behind the plane's engine, a wing, and the tail.

Miraculously, no one on the ground was injured, but three of the passengers, the mother and her two daughters, were killed. The pilot, who was the husband and father, was critically injured and taken to Hershey Medical Center for treatment.

Because of their fast response time, the DDSP Police Department was able to assist with traffic and crowd control, and within minutes the scene was under control. The DDSP Fire Department was the second engine to arrive at the scene. Because of its specialized fire apparatus, equipped with a bumper turret, it was able to have first contact with the fire.

Not every fire truck has the option of a discharging a firefighting agent while moving; however, DDSP's newly designed engine has that capability. This feature is

based on a standard structural pump that possesses aircraft firefighting capabilities. Its pumper also has two separate engines that enable the truck to drive and discharge water or foam at the same time, thus making it possible to have direct contact with the fire upon driving to the scene.



DDSP's Bumper Turret was used to extinguish the fire.

Utilizing the bumper turret allows firefighters to dispense a large amount of agent from a distance. The bumper from the DDSP turret can discharge up to 300 gallons per minute applying water or foam from up to 150 feet.

A regular handline provides the capabilities to discharge 125 gallons of water per minute from up to 75 feet away. The initial application of foam cools the fire, absorbs the heat, and creates a vapor barrier to the ignition source.

The DDSP Fire Department helped to extinguish the fire, salvage and overhaul the perimeter of the crash, not departing the scene until 6:17 p.m. Through the combined humanitarian efforts of all local emergency respondents, the fire was contained to the immediate area of impact.



The Bumper Turret shoots 330 gallons of water per minute up to 150 feet.



Scene of the crash 1000 feet from the runway located in the upper portion of photo. Nobody was home and the two adjacent trailers were unoccupied when the single-engine plane crashed.

## Fire Personnel Return from Gulfport Area

By Gary Brouse, DDSP Fire Chief

On September 7th, Deputy Chief Henry Hoffman and I returned from Gulfport, Mississippi after spending more than a week in the hurricane ravaged area. In addition to being members of the Defense Distribution Depot Susquehanna PA (DDSP) Fire and Emergency Services Department, we serve on the Pennsylvania Task Force (TF) 1 Team, one of 28 FEMA elite Urban Search and Rescue Teams spread throughout the country. These are the specialized teams that responded to the Oklahoma City bombings, the World Trade Center and the Pentagon attack.

The multi-disciplined Pennsylvania TF 1 Team is comprised of 80 specialists highly trained in removing victims entrapped in a confined area, typically a collapsed structure. The team consists of Rescue Specialists equipped to breach through concrete and cut through steel; trauma doctors and paramedics with specialized medical training associated with victims being trapped in rubble, specifically trained in crush syndrome. The team also has structural engineers, hazardous materials and search specialists equipped with nationally certified canines