



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE
KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Date: 01/07/2016
Complaint Number: 200931-17
Type of Incident: Aircraft Incident
Reporting Officer: Deputy Tim Wiktorowski
Supervisor Approval: Sgt. Justin DeBoode

On Saturday January 7, 2017 at approximately 12:37 Hours, Kent County Deputies responded to an Aircraft Incident on Murray Lake in Grattan Township. Kent County Dispatch received calls that a plane had crashed onto Murray Lake and was sinking through the ice. The preliminary investigation revealed that a 2008 American Legend AL3C aircraft broke through thin ice just prior to take off and became submerged under the ice. The pilot of the plane was identified as James Bakeman, a 59 year old Grand Rapids resident. Mr. Bakeman was able to exit the plane on his own and was uninjured. A witness utilized a Kayak to traverse the ice covered lake and assist Mr. Bakeman to shore.

The Kent County Sheriff Department was assisted by Grattan Township Fire Dept., Lowell Township Fire Dept. and The Dept. of Natural Resources. The investigation has been turned over to the FAA.