



ROCKY WATSON, SHERIFF
TAD LEACH, UNDERSHERIFF

KOOTENAI COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE
AUGUST 29, 2008**

At 12:13 p.m. the Kootenai County 9-1-1 Center received a report of an airplane that had just crashed at the rear of the Atlas Elementary School at the intersection of Honeysuckle Avenue and Atlas Road in the City of Hayden, Idaho.

When emergency personnel arrived they found a small experimental aircraft had crashed and had come to rest upside down next to the southeast corner of the building. The pilot, who had been partially ejected, was pronounced dead at the scene.

Initial investigation and witness accounts indicate that the plane had turned a circle southwest of the school and the engine was heard to sputter. Witnesses added that as the plane came towards the ground, they did not hear the engine running at all.

Killed in the crash was Kenneth L. Lien, 65, of Spokane, Washington. Lien was the only occupant of the plane. No one on the ground was injured. According to investigators, Mr. Lien kept the small plane at the Coeur d'Alene Airport.

Sheriff's investigators and the FAA are investigating the cause of the crash. Further information will be forthcoming when it becomes available.

Rocky Watson, Sheriff

By: Capt. Ben Wolfinger