



Tri-County Airport Authority

1983 Tri-County Airport Rd - Bonifay, FL 32425

Mail: PO Box 756, Bonifay, FL 32425

March 9, 2021

To: Tri-County Airport Board

From: Ross Statham, serving in capacity of Airport Emergency Services Coordinator

Subject: Airport Emergency on March 7, 2021

On Sunday afternoon, March 7, 2021 Airport Mark Wilson was notified by Skydive Panama City that their newly repainted King Air 90's nose gear would not extend, and so they were planning a "nose-down" landing at Tri-County. Mark alerted Holmes County 911, who dispatched several fire, rescue and EMT trucks to the airport, including a foam truck, along with their Chief, who served as the Incident Commander on the scene. I arrived at the airport shortly before the main body of trucks arrived.

The incident was handled competently and well by Mark and by Holmes County; their dispatch was timely and personnel arrived on the scene ready to go.

The King Air ultimately decided to use the longer runway option at Panama City, and landed there with no nose gear at a little before 4 pm. Mark stood Holmes County down, and we thanked them for their professionalism and fast response.

According to Panama City news reports (taken from the Panama City Airport press release), there were no injuries to the one passenger. They also reported that they were able to tow the aircraft from their runway and move it into a maintenance facility. The news report said that one Delta flight and one Southwest flight were diverted to Pensacola during the airport closure.

Kudos to our airport manager and to Holmes County Fire for the way this was VERY well handled. Mark and I also spoke with Cairns Approach; my conversation with Cairns shortly after the incident was a three minute debrief, along with our thanks.

Ross E. Statham
Emergency Services Coordinator