

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

581 Highway 23 NE • P.O. Box 159 • Foley, MN 56329

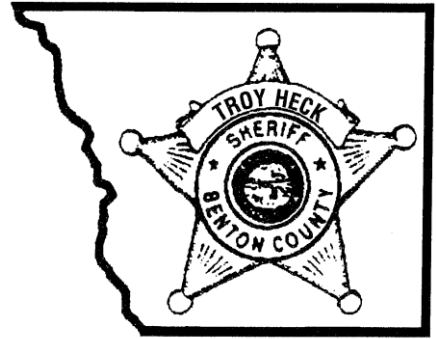
Administrative: (320) 968-7201 • FAX: (320) 968-6885

Jail: (320) 968-8180 • FAX: (320) 968-6347

Records: (320) 968-8150

Facebook: www.facebook.com/BentonMNSheriff/

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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 08-30-18

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

On 08-29-18 the Benton County Sheriff's Office responded to the report of an aircraft accident in Minden Township. At about 6:00 pm on 08-29-18 the Benton County Sheriff's Office was advised that a fan powered parachute style aircraft had crashed into a tree on private property in the 3600 block of 25th St NE. Responding deputies arrived on scene and found a still-occupied aircraft suspended in a tree about 50 feet in the air. Deputies on the ground were able to talk to the pilot (Roger Harold Violet, Sr., age 71 of Sauk Rapids) who was secured in the pilot's seat of the aircraft. Violet reported having non-life threatening injuries. The Sauk Rapids Fire Department was dispatched to the scene to assist with getting Violet out of the aircraft. Sauk Rapids firefighters were able to free Violet from the aircraft and bring him to the ground for evaluation by medical personnel from Gold Cross Ambulance and North Memorial Air Care. Violet was then transported by ambulance to the St. Cloud Hospital for treatment of his non-life threatening injuries. Investigating deputies learned that the crash occurred just after Violet, a licensed pilot, had lifted off from the ground near the site of the crash. Evidence gathered in the investigation indicated that Violet took off from this private property but did not gain enough altitude following take off to avoid the collision with the tree.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy Heck". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff

