



**Town of Mammoth Lakes**

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Thursday, October 02, 2008**

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### **WRECKAGE OF STEVE FOSSETT'S PLANE FOUND NEAR MAMMOTH**

Mammoth Lakes, CA - Madera County Sheriff John Anderson has confirmed that the wreckage found near Mammoth Mountain in Eastern Madera County is from the plane that was flown by missing aviator and adventurer Steve Fossett.

Sheriff Anderson received word Wednesday night from Mono County Search and Rescue personnel assigned to Madera County's mission that a tag from the aircraft matched the Bellanca Super Decathlon that the 63-year-old millionaire was flying on September 3, 2007.

Mr. Fossett took off from the ranch of hotel magnate Barron Hilton, south of Yerington, Nevada on a flight that was expected to last three hours. An extensive search operation conducted over the course of several months failed to find any trace of Mr. Fossett or his plane and he was legally declared dead by a court in Chicago in February, 2008.

The three I.D.s (FAA Pilot's License, SSA and NAA cards), \$1,005 in cash, a black XL sweat shirt and subsequent wreckage were located approximately 7 miles west of Mammoth Mountain in a very remote and rugged region of Madera County at an elevation of 9,700 feet by local resident Preston Morrow on Monday, September 29, 2008. An extensive search for human remains continues with 50 people and five dog teams on site. No human remains have been found at this time.

**--MORE--**

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The National Transportation and Safety Board (NTSB) have assumed control of the investigation, and will strive to determine the cause of the crash. From photographic evidence captured by the Mono County Search and Rescue Team, it appears that most of the fuselage had disintegrated with engine parts scattered several hundred feet away which is consistent with a "high-impact" crash that assumes a low chance of survival.

Sheriff Anderson is very grateful to The Mammoth Lakes Police Department, The Mono County Sheriff's Department, Lyon County Sheriff's Department, Kern County, Riverside, San Bernardino, Washoe, Calaveras, California Highway Patrol, Madera County, State OES for both California and Nevada, China Lake, CARDIA, FAA, NTSB, and WOOF, United States Forest Service and Yosemite National Park Personnel, as well as the 10 men and women from Mono County who volunteered their time to venture into this very rough and rugged terrain in search efforts.

Please contact the Public Information Officer for the NTSB at (202) 557-1350 or Mammoth Lakes Community Relations Manager, Stuart Brown at (760) 934-2712 ext. 1210 or (760) 914-0699 for additional information.

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