



November 24, 2010

### **DESTIN AIRPLANE CRASH CLAIMS THREE LIVES**

A pilot and two passengers, all from Texas, were killed Tuesday evening when their single engine PA-46 Malibu crashed into Choctawhatchee Bay while attempting to land at the Destin Airport in heavy fog around 7:40 p.m. The bodies have been recovered and turned over to the Okaloosa-Walton Medical Examiner's Office which will confirm the identities.

The Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office Marine Unit and Dive Team, Coast Guard Destin, and Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission responded after Eglin Radar and Approach reported losing radio contact with the plane as it was descending. The small aircraft was located less than an hour later in an area of Joe's Bayou in Choctawhatchee Bay near Destin. It was upside down in about five feet of water, approximately two hundred yards from shore.

The National Transportation Safety Board and F-A-A will investigate the fatal crash. An NTSB official is expected to arrive in Destin around 10 a.m. this morning, (Wednesday).

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