

CHARLESTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
Sheriff Kristin Graziano
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North Charleston, SC 29405




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CCSO chief pilot recovering after helicopter crash

2023-009757

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. – A Charleston County Sheriff's Office helicopter pilot is recovering Tuesday evening after being injured in a crash near Charleston International Airport.

CCSO's helicopter was approaching the airport shortly before 3:30 p.m. when the pilot reported a malfunction. The helicopter crashed a short time later in the airfield close to Joint Base Charleston.

Military and airport personnel, along with CCSO deputies and other partner agencies, responded to the crash site and found the aircraft with significant damage. The pilot was taken to MUSC for treatment of injuries that were not considered life-threatening.

CCSO's chief pilot, Lt. Scott Martray, remained in good spirits Tuesday evening. Martray has been employed at CCSO since 2006.

"Our deputies encounter dangers daily and rely on their training to safely guide them through those challenges," Charleston County Sheriff Kristin Graziano said. "Our pilots are no different. We respect and appreciate Scott's expertise that allowed him to bring the helicopter down while minimizing damage on the ground and injury to himself. We will continue to support him and his family through his recovery. We will also support the investigation to determine what caused the malfunction."

The helicopter was returning to CCSO's Aviation Unit office at the airport after a flight to Sumter, S.C., for routine maintenance. It was removed from the crash site after 7 p.m.

The 2012 Bell 407GX helicopter went in service for the agency in 2018. More details: <https://sheriff.charlestoncounty.org/news/2018/ccso-helicopter-display.pdf>

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The National Transportation Safety Board will handle the investigation. Further inquiries regarding the investigation should be directed toward the NTSB.

Any questions about airport operations should be directed to the Charleston International Airport.

The Charleston County Sheriff's Office thanks all agencies who responded to the incident.



Chief Pilot Scott Martray

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UPDATE Aug. 2, 2023

Lt. Martray was released from the hospital this evening to continue his recovery at home. We appreciate all the expressions of concern from the community.

UPDATE Aug. 4, 2023

The following is a link to video taken from the Charleston International Airport of the crash. We applaud Lt. Martray's bravery in handling this emergency situation, and we thank police and rescue crews for their speedy response. We ask that you respect his privacy during his recovery. He is not conducting interviews at this time.

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_eVx8Ku9HzpoCWKuXT1zk082qKZyt3h/view?usp=sharing

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