



Yuma County Sheriff's Office

Leon N. Wilmot
Sheriff of Yuma County

141 S. 3rd Avenue, Yuma, AZ 85364
Tel: (928) 783-4427 • Fax: (928) 539-7837
www.yumacountysheriff.org

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Tania Pavlak
Phone: (928) 783-4427
DR# 2022-82285

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 21, 2022 – 12:30 PM

* UPDATE *

Aircraft Incident

Location of Incident: Area of Spot Road and Interstate 8 – Dateland, AZ

UPDATE: The occupants of the aircraft have been identified as Ronald Barba, 61, of Tijuana, Mexico and Marcela Barba, 47, of Tijuana Mexico.

The husband and wife were flying from San Diego to Nogales at the time of the incident. Next of kin notifications have been made.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the cause of the crash which is still unknown at this time.

ORIGINAL RELEASE – September 16, 2022 – 1:50 PM

On Friday, September 16, 2022 at approximately 1:50 PM, an Arizona Department of Public Safety Trooper observed a large plume of smoke while on patrol near Spot Road and Interstate 8. Upon arrival, the Trooper located a small aircraft in the desert fully engulfed in flames.

YCSO Deputies responded and assumed the investigation. A deceased pilot and passenger were found on scene. The aircraft has been identified as a Van's RV-6 two-seater plane.

The Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board were contacted and are currently on scene investigating this incident. The cause of the crash is unknown at this time.

The identity of the pilot and passenger are being withheld pending positive identification.

This case remains under investigation at this time. Anyone with information regarding this case, please contact the Yuma County Sheriff's Office at 928-783-4427 or 78-CRIME to remain anonymous. You can also visit our website at www.yumacountysheriff.org to submit an anonymous tip.

Information Released By: Tania Pavlak, Public Affairs Specialist