

PRESS RELEASE

12 July 2012 - 0800

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AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT IN BROOME

A twin engine Piper Seneca aircraft belonging to Golden Eagle Airlines departed Broome last evening on a regular freight flight to Port Hedland. The aircraft took off at night in good weather conditions. The pilot could not be contacted after take off.

Search and rescue were activated immediately. After an extensive search, the aircraft was located in sand dunes at the end of the runway some hours later. The pilot did not survive the accident.

Golden Eagle Airlines is mourning the loss of a friend and pilot. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

The company appreciates the rapid response of personnel involved in the search and rescue operations.

At this stage details of what occurred and the cause of the accident are not known.

The company owners are on their way to Broome to support the family and co-workers of the pilot.

A thorough investigation into the accident will be carried out by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau with full co-operation of the company.

Golden Eagle Airlines has operated in the region for 22 years without major incident.

Further details will be released as they become available.

Next release mid day 12 July 2012.