

The Advertiser



Pilot dies in freak tragedy at Parafield Airport

Pilot dies as two planes crash at Parafield Airport

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A RUNAWAY plane struck and killed a pilot before hitting a stationary aircraft head-on, in a freak tragedy on the tarmac at Parafield Airport on Sunday.

Emergency services rushed to the airfield in Adelaide's north about 4pm after reports that two planes had crashed on the tarmac.

A 62-year-old Wattle Park man was fatally injured by a yellow single-engine, four-cylinder Cessna, which then careered into a white, twin-engine Piper Saratoga.

“One plane appears to have taxied away after hitting the pilot and then crashed into another plane parked nearby,” a police spokesman said.

“There were no persons in either aircraft at the time of the crash.”

The crash is believed to have occurred in front of horrified onlookers.



An Australian Transport Safety Bureau said it is believed someone was trying to start the aircraft when it taxied away.

There were unconfirmed reports that a dog was removed from one plane after the crash, which occurred in a plane parking area.

Word of the tragedy spread quickly around the airport.

Cadet pilot Alex Garbett, 28, said he could not understand how the incident occurred.

“It’s an absolute freak accident,” he said.

“You see (minor incidents) happen once every six months but I’ve never heard of a fatality.”

Fellow cadet pilot Sam Juers said it was hard to believe someone has died in the airport’s parking area.



A person has died after a plane crashed into another aircraft in the parking area at Parafield Airfield. Pic: Campbell Brodie

“It will be interesting to (find out) what happened,” he said. “That’s a parking area there.”

Another pilot, who wished to remain anonymous, was also stunned.

“We have no idea what happened,” he said. “Obviously one of them has gotten away.”

Flights were not affected by the crash, but some pilots who landed were unable to access hangars while authorities investigated the crash.

Extracted from:

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/news/south-australia/planes-collide-at-parafield-airport/news-story/e02f03895f39f120ef938c53d3fd9f40>

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