

Update: Volunteers continue search for missing plane in Mississippi



Courtesy:KNOE

By News Staff | Updated: Fri 6:16 PM, Oct 30, 2015

PASCAGOULA, Miss. (KNOE 8 News/AP) - UPDATE: October 30, 2015 at 6:15pm

The [National Transportation Safety Board](#) says it will take time to figure out what happened to a plane that crashed in the Mississippi Gulf with a local man on board.

In an email sent to CBS affiliate WLOX, The NTSB noted the downed aircraft did not have a black box. That's the reason for the delay in analysis. The NTSB must now rely on radar data and air traffic control data to help piece together the final moments of the flight.

The NTSB says it is possible a preliminary report could be released next week. Officials and volunteers are continuing to look for the three men who were on the plane, which included West Monroe businessman Gerald Miletello.

The search is focused near Round Island in the gulf.

UPDATE: October 29, 2015 at 10:45am

The Coast Guard has suspended its search for three people aboard a Lancair single-engine plane that crashed Monday in the Mississippi Sound.

Gerald Miletello of West Monroe, Louisiana, along with Dexter Brewer of Saucier, Mississippi, and pilot Ron Gregory have been missing since their aircraft disappeared just minutes after taking off from the Million Air terminal at Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport.

Part of the tail was found on an Ocean Springs beach Tuesday, and officials had been searching nearby waters.

Capt. Brandon Lechthaler, deputy commander, Coast Guard Sector Mobile, said in news release that suspending a search is a difficult decision to make.

According to the news release, the Coast Guard and response crews covered more than 3,500 square miles in their search efforts.

Original Story:

The Coast Guard says the search continues Wednesday for three men aboard a single-engine plane that went missing in the Mississippi Sound shortly after takeoff from Gulfport.

The plane went missing Monday afternoon. Debris, including a piece with part of the plane's registration number, was found Tuesday.

Bob Roy, president of Georgia-based contractor RMR Mechanical, says that two of the three on board work for the company: Manager Dexter Brewer and vice president and co-owner Gerald Miletello.

Roy says Brewer was headed to a customer meeting in South Carolina. Roy says the third person was the pilot. Officials haven't released names.

Brewer's wife, Tina Cook, tells the newspaper she's hopeful her husband's alive. She says that before he boarded, he told her they'd probably fly along the coast to avoid rough weather.