

# Pilot identified in fatal Sarasota plane crash



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*STAFF PHOTO / SHANNON MCFARLAND*

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**SARASOTA** - Authorities have identified a pilot who died in a Saturday plane crash at the New College of Florida campus and his critically injured passenger.

John William Ardoyno, 70, of Hayward, Wis., piloted the single-engine Seawind aircraft that took off from Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport at about 3:30 p.m.

Ardoyno died when the plane suddenly crashed across the Tamiami Trail from the airport in a field at New College.

His passenger — William S. Jackson, 63, of Ann Arbor, Mich. — was on fire when he managed to get out of the damaged seaplane. Paramedics airlifted Jackson to the burn unit at Tampa General Hospital, where he remains in critical condition.

No one on the ground was injured, though the plane crashed about 100 yards from a campus building.

Witnesses said that, after the plane took off, it flew low and started dipping and knocking branches off trees before going down in a fiery crash.

The International Seawind Pilots Association lists Ardoyno as a member and a flight instructor.

In September, Ardoyno made an emergency landing in the Indian River Lagoon when the Seawind he was piloting lost engine power and he could not make it to the nearest airfield.

He had just left Vero Beach Municipal Airport when the aircraft reportedly lost oil pressure.

Ardoyno and his passenger, Leonard Fleming of Port Orchard, Wash., were not injured. Fleming had just purchased the plane, according to a news report.

Investigators with the National Transportation Safety Board arrived in Sarasota Sunday morning. They have yet to say what may have been the possible cause of Saturday's crash.

Anyone with information about the crash is asked to call the Sheriff's Office at (941) 861-4900.

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