



NEWS RELEASE



ALACHUA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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For Immediate Release:

Today's Date: April 6, 2006
Prepared By: Sergeant Stephen Maynard
Release #: 2006-138
Case #: 2006-4107
Incident Date: April 5, 2006
Incident Time: 8:48 p.m.
Incident Location: 4700 E University Avenue, Gainesville, Fl 32641

Aircraft Incident:

The Alachua County Sheriff's Office received a call from the traffic control tower at the Gainesville Regional Airport last night indicating they had an inbound helicopter that was reporting engine trouble. The pilot, Christopher Frank, from Groveland, Florida, was able to perform an emergency landing in the roadway of East University Avenue. The helicopter belonged to Tropical Helicopters out of Leesburg and was enroute to the Gainesville Regional Airport when it first reported the trouble. A passenger, Mark Womak, also from Groveland was in the helicopter at the time of the incident. No injuries were reported but the roadway was blocked for some time. The FAA was notified about the incident.