



**WESTMORELAND COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE CORONER**

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John F. Swartz
Chief Deputy

Kenneth A. Bacha
Coroner

Jeffrey D. Monzo
Solicitor

**PUBLIC INFORMATION REPORT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2017**

<u>Nature of Release:</u> Aviation Fatality	<u>Date and Time of Incident:</u> April 12, 2017 2:36 PM
<u>Incident Location:</u>	Rostraver Airport 605 Airport Road Rostraver Township
<u>Person(s) Involved:</u> Decedent: John Graham III, 42 y/o male Address: Sontino Lane Jefferson Hills, PA 15025 Date and Time of Death: April 12, 2017 at 4:47 PM	
<u>Incident Details:</u> Cause of Death: Pending	
Manner of Death: Pending	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Westmoreland County Coroner, Kenneth A. Bacha, has released the following information on an aviation fatality.▪ The decedent, John Graham III, was the operator and lone occupant of a 1940's Howard aircraft.▪ The decedent was practicing "touch and goes" and traveling west on the runway.▪ A gust of wind came from the north forcing the aircraft into a southern direction.▪ The decedent was unable to regain control of the aircraft and it crashed into a wooded area south of the runway.▪ Immediately following the crash the aircraft became fully engulfed in flames.▪ The decedent was unable to extricate himself from the aircraft.▪ Deputy Coroner Joshua C. Zappone and Deputy Coroner Doug Lewis investigated the incident.▪ Deputy Zappone pronounced the decedent dead at the scene.▪ An autopsy will be performed by Dr. Cyril H. Wecht and Pathology Associates on April 13, 2017.▪ Cause and manner of death will be pending autopsy and toxicology results.▪ Toxicology results will not be available for several weeks.▪ Jefferson Memorial Funeral Home will be in charge of arrangements.▪ Rostraver Township Police Department and the Federal Aviation Administration also investigated.	
*****No further information is available at this time*****	