



# COTTONWOOD POLICE DEPARTMENT

# NEWS RELEASE

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The Cottonwood Police Department in a joint investigation with the FAA has charged pilot Kelly Thompson in connection with the May 6<sup>th</sup> airplane crash near the Cottonwood Airport. 65 year old Kelly Thompson has been charged with operating an airplane without a proper license, operating a not airworthy aircraft, and reckless aircraft operations. Thompson was cited and released on his promise to appear at the Cottonwood Municipal Court.

Thompson initially told investigators that the runway lights were not operational. Investigation into the runway lighting system revealed that it was operating correctly and it is believed that pilot error was a contributing factor into the runway lights not operating.



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