

# The Post and Courier

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## 2 men survive crash

Andy Paras

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[Alan Hawes /The Post and Courier](#) Mount Pleasant firefighters attach a rope to a gyroplane that crashed in a pond in the Ravens Run subdivision. The neighborhood has its own landing strip for residents. The pilot and a passenger walked away from the crash.

Mount Pleasant -- Two men escaped serious injury Friday when an experimental gyroplane crashed in the Ravens Run subdivision.

Witnesses said it sounded as though the engine quit moments after it took off from a 2,400-foot grass runway inside the private, gated community at 1453 Omni Blvd.

The 2007 Xenon RST Gyroplane crashed into a pond about 50 yards from the runway.

Barry Himmelstein, the passenger aboard the aircraft, said the plane just dropped straight into the water. Both he and the pilot were able to escape before it overturned in the pond.

"I'm fine. There's not a scratch on me," he said. "I didn't even have time to be scared."



Resident Cecil McLeod saw the plane on the runway before it disappeared behind some trees. He was waiting for it to lift off over the trees when he heard a strange sound.

"It sounded like the engine quit," McLeod said. "It just went 'Woomp.' I'm just glad they're OK."



Resident Bob Grevemberg also listened to the plane as it was taking off.

"It was going nice and smooth, and all of a sudden, it stopped," he said. "It didn't sputter. It just stopped."

The pilot, who declined to comment, had a cut on his hand, but neither man was taken to the hospital.



The Federal Aviation Administration was expected to arrive at about 5 p.m. to investigate the crash. Until then, Mount Pleasant firefighters surrounded the plane with a containment boom to prevent oil and gasoline from spreading.

The S.C. Department of Health and Environmental Control also was responding.

#### BRIGHTCOVE Gyroplane Crash

The plane, with tail number N4462J, is registered to Charlotte-based SRJ Aviation Inc., in care of the Gach Law Firm in

Charlotte, according to the FAA Web site.

A representative of the Gach Law Firm declined to comment.

The plane is registered with the FAA as an experimental aircraft.

Gyroplanes typically are considered a hybrid of helicopters and airplanes. They use a pusher propeller that allows them to travel slowly.

The engine is in the rear, which allows for an unobstructed view.

Reach **Andy Paras** at 937-5589 or [aparas@postandcourier.com](mailto:aparas@postandcourier.com).