

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROCKET ENGINEERING MOURNS THE LOSS OF EMPLOYEES RICHARD RUNYON  
AND LYNDON AMESTOY IN MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> AIRCRAFT ACCIDENT

Rocket Engineering, has been based at Felts Field for 25 years designing, testing and building FAA certified conversions for general aviation aircraft. The company is mourning the loss of two employees, Richard Runyon and Lyndon Amestoy, who were piloting an aircraft that crashed into the Spokane River near Felts Field on May 7<sup>th</sup>.

Richard "Rich" Runyon joined Rocket Engineering in 1997 following a distinguished career in the United States Air Force. Rich held the position of engineer and flight test pilot for Rocket Engineering and also was a test pilot for the FAA.

Lyndon "Lyn" Amestoy joined Rocket Engineering in 1999 and held the position of customer support manager and was also a certified pilot.

Rich Runyon and Lyn Amestoy were well-known and respected in the aviation community at Felts Field and were both outstanding employees and all around wonderful people. They both played an integral role in Rocket Engineering and this tragedy has devastated our close-knit group of employees. Since Thursday afternoon, we have prioritized doing everything we can to assist both Rich's and Lyn's family members and to cooperate with the investigation of the accident.

The aircraft was being piloted by Runyon and Amestoy following a routine FAA required annual inspection. This aircraft was one of approximately 600 conversions that have been completed by Rocket Engineering since 1990.

"On behalf of Rocket Engineering, we wish to thank all of the emergency rescue personnel who responded to the accident. They worked very hard in difficult circumstances to retrieve Rich and Lyn from the submerged aircraft and we are so grateful to them for their efforts."

There will be a celebration of life for Rich and Lyn at the Rocket Engineering facility at Felts Field this coming Saturday May 16th at 5:00 PM.