

HERRMANN LAW GROUP

AVIATION | PERSONAL INJURY | INSURANCE LAW

– Est. 1950 –

FORMER SENATOR & INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

Karl Herrmann (1915-1997) Founder

September 5, 2022

To Northwest Seaplanes Crash Victims and Family Members:

Our hearts go out to the families and friends of the victims of the Northwest Seaplanes crash that occurred on September 4, 2022.

Our experience representing victims of air disasters for decades has taught us the depth of your sorrow. Mere words are insufficient, but please accept our sincere condolences.

We provide you with this information to help you confront legal challenges you will face seeking justice from those responsible for the crash.

GENERAL INFORMATION

These four points you need to know immediately:

1. **Do not discuss your case** with representatives of the aircraft company, the airline, insurers, or anyone else other than your family, your doctors, or your lawyers. While corporate representatives may seem sympathetic and helpful, their goal is to protect their employers and settle your claim for very small compensation.
2. **Start a diary/journal** in which you record all your suffering – both physical and emotional. Preserve all financial records including income, taxes, business corporate records, bank account and budgets. Further, keep records of all medical treatment and all expenses.
3. **Seek psychological/grief counseling.** Not only can it be vital for your mental health, but it will also document your suffering, which will help prove the extent of your damages when the time comes.
4. **All victims need legal advice** from lawyers skilled in these complicated aviation disaster cases. The sooner your lawyers start work on your behalf, the more successful they will be.

FACTS

On September 4, 2022, a float plane crashed in Mutiny Bay, an area west of Whidbey Island. A witness said there was a sound “like dynamite going off.” Other witnesses described a “loud boom.”

The Northwest Seaplanes aircraft, a de Havilland DHC-3 Otter, was heading from Friday Harbor in the San Juan Islands to the Renton Municipal Airport. After the crash was reported, the Coast Guard deployed boats, helicopters, and aircraft.

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On board were 9 adults and one child. One body has been recovered from the crash scene, and the other 9 are unaccounted for.

Little is known at this point, and the National Transportation Safety Board is investigating. Investigators will be examining all these factors:

1. Weather – Weather conditions were generally reported as favorable at the time of the crash. However, from our past experience we can say that even changes in the altitude of cloud cover can cause significant problems during flights.
2. Aircraft – The de Havilland DHC-3 Otter is a short take-off and landing aircraft that was first produced in 1951. Because it has been in service so long, it has an extensive history of crashes, with 118 incidents, resulting in 242 deaths, reported as of June 2019. Investigators will be examining to see what role, if any, the aircraft played into the crash.
3. Airline – Northwest Seaplanes has been identified as the charter company. They are a private company that has been providing charter seaplane flights since 1988. They fly to locations such as the San Juan Islands, Vancouver Island, and British Columbia's Inside Passage. The de Haviland Otter is the only aircraft of its kind they operate. According to their website, the company hasn't had a crash or other incident for 24 years. Nonetheless, in every plane crash, the operators of the aircraft undergo intense scrutiny. Investigators will attempt to identify any failure to follow safety protocols.

Many other factors must be investigated before accurate professional conclusions can be reached. Meanwhile, be wary of rumors, speculation, and conjecture.

COMPENSATION

Just compensation is unique to individual victims and the situation. Injuries, whether critical or minor, can result in significant compensation. Further, everyone on the aircraft in a crash will have experienced terror and trauma. Some passengers may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. All injuries, whether physical or emotional, are potentially compensable.

The death of a loved one is extremely traumatic. Losing a family member's love and affection, companionship, and support can mean substantial compensation depending upon family relationships, age of the victim, and other factors. There are also financial losses.

Many factors go into calculating the just amount. We prepare every aspect of a case, using experts, when necessary, to maximize your just award. Our work begins immediately so we can recover just compensation for our clients as soon as possible.

In previous litigation, we've recovered as much as several million dollars. For specific cases and amounts, please review "[Firm Record](#)" on our website.

We want to be clear, however, that past results do not guarantee any amount for future recoveries. Each case is determined on its own merits.

HERRMANN LAW GROUP has successfully represented victims and victim families in plane crash cases for decades.

We invite all to contact us for a **free, personal, and private consultation with no commitments required. Please contact any of our following lawyers:**

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You can also speak to anyone at either of two offices:

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Respectfully,

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