



NTSB RECORD

Eric Swenson
Aviation Accident Investigator
Anchorage, AK (Alaska Region)

Date: 4/19/2022

Person Contacted: Martin Vega (Witness) [REDACTED]

NTSB Accident Number: ANC22FA030

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with a Federal Aviation Administration aviation safety inspector (Juan Arjona) from the Scottsdale Flight Standard District Office and the witness:

- Where were you located?
 - o I was about 1/4 - 1/2 mile west
- What were you doing at the time?
 - o It was in the morning, I do not remember the exact time
- What brought your attention to the helicopter?
 - o I like to watch all the aircraft as they land as I do my job
- How high was the helicopter compared to other aircraft/ airplanes that you've seen landing?
 - o It appeared at a normal altitude that I've seen when other aircraft land at the airport
- What did you initially hear?
 - o I did not hear anything because I was running my heavy equipment, I'm a heavy equipment operator
- What did the helicopter sound like?
 - o I did not hear anything
- Did the sound change as the helicopter descended/crashed?
 - o Sorry, I did not hear anything
- Can you describe it? Could you see individual main rotor blades or did they all look like a blur?
 - o I could see they were all turning
- Could you see tail rotor blades turning?
 - o Yes, they were turning



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- What was the helicopter attitude as it descended?
 - o It came directly down
- Did the attitude change before it impacted?
 - o No it just hit the ground
- Did the helicopter spin?
 - o No, it did not
- Can you describe what you heard/ saw during the impact?
 - o I saw it hit the ground and then dust or smoke flew up
- What did you do after the impact?
 - o I went towards the accident
- Did you go to the scene?
 - o I went towards the helicopter but stopped at about 200 yards, I saw the victim on the ground but did not get closer, I returned to an airport office they provide for me and called my wife and told her to call 911
- Why didn't you call 911 yourself?
 - o I don't like using the phone that much, so I had her call



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Eric Swenson
Aviation Accident Investigator
Anchorage, AK (Alaska Region)

Date: 5/3/2022
Person Contacted: Ben Zimmer (flight instructor of the pilot)
NTSB Accident Number: ANC22FA030

Narrative:

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the flight instructor:

- The day of the accident the accident pilot seemed normal, well rested, and did not seem stressed
- The accident pilot was close to finishing his private license
- He felt fully confident in the skills of the accident pilot and had no concerns the day of the accident flight or during the previous training flights
- They showed up about 30 minutes prior to the flight to preflight the helicopter
- No discrepancies were found during the preflight
- They topped off the helicopter full of fuel and added a quart of oil
- The flight was scheduled to be from Chandler Municipal Airport (CHD) to Gila Bend Municipal Airport (E63) to Ak-Chin Regional Airport (A39) and back to CHD
- The accident pilot did obtain a weather brief
- The accident pilot filed a company flight plan that was activated through the company
- This was the first solo cross-country flight for the accident pilot
- The accident pilot had flown solo twice before the accident flight
- They had flown in the accident helicopter before, and he believed the accident pilot had flown solo in the accident helicopter before the accident flight

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