



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

David B Banning
Senior Aviation Accident Investigator
Alaskan Region

Date: October 11, 2021
Person Contacted: Mr. Charlie Crosby
Location: Telephone
NTSB Accident Number: ANC22LA001

Narrative:

On October 10, 2021, about 1320 Alaska daylight time, a Robinson R44 clipper II helicopter, N555EL, sustained substantial damage when it collided with a drone was near Palmer, Alaska.

Mr. Crosby was the owner and operator of the drone and stated the following:

He was visiting Alaska on vacation and had taken a tour with the 49th State Motor Tours. They had driven all-terrain vehicles to a lake near the toe of the Knik Glacier. He informed his tour guide that he would be flying his drone. He said that he had recently acquired the drone and that it was a DJI Air 2S. About 3 to 4 minutes after takeoff, and while the drone was at approximately 143 ft a red helicopter suddenly appeared and collided with the drone. He said that the helicopter was making a turn operating at a very low level and at a high rate of speed. He did not see the exact location of the impact on the helicopter as he was looking at the display; however, people he was with indicated that it impacted the helicopter's "propeller". He said after the collision the drone impacted the water that was laden with ice bergs and was not recovered. - END



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Date: October 11, 2021
Person Contacted: Mr. Jim Olson
Location: Telephone
NTSB Accident Number: ANC22LA001

Narrative:

On October 10, 2021, about 1320 Alaska daylight time, a Robinson R44 clipper II helicopter, N555EL, sustained substantial damage when it collided with a drone was near Palmer, Alaska.

Mr. Jim Olson was a tour guide, observed the collision and stated the following:

He was a tour guide for 49th State Motor Tours. He stated that they were fixing lunch while one of their customers was flying his drone, when a helicopter appeared banked and struck the drone. He said that he did not see the collision however he heard, what sounded like a gun shot when the two collided. He estimated the helicopters altitude at the time of the collision to be about 100 ft.

- END



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Alaskan Region

Date: October 11, 2021
Person Contacted: Mr. Latrael Hackathorn
Location: Telephone
NTSB Accident Number: ANC22LA001

Narrative:

On October 10, 2021, about 1320 Alaska daylight time, a Robinson R44 clipper II helicopter, N555EL, sustained substantial damage when it collided with a drone was near Palmer, Alaska.

Mr. Latrael Hackathorn was a tour guide, observed the collision and stated the following:

He was a tour guide for 49th State Motor Tours. He stated that one of their clients came up to them and let them know he would be flying his drone. The client had been flying the drone for about ten minutes when a helicopter came over the hill banked hard and impacted the drone. He observed the collision and thought the drone impacted the fuselage of the helicopter. When asked how high he thought the helicopter was at the time of the collision he said that the drone operator should him his display and the drone had been operating at 144 ft.

He also stated that following the collision the drone impacted an ice berg laden lake and was not recovered.

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