

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Research and Engineering

Washington, DC 20594



ANC24FA063

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE

Specialist's Factual Report

November 26, 2024

A. ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Location: Kekaha, Hawaii
Date: July 11, 2024
Time: 1305 Hawaii-Aleutian standard time
Airplane: Robinson R44 helicopter, N144KW

B. PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICE SPECIALIST

Specialist: W. Deven Chen
Electrical Engineer – Recorder Specialist
National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

C. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

A recorder group was not convened. The NTSB Vehicle Recorder Division received the following personal electronic device (PED):

Recorder Manufacturer/Model:	Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra
IMEI Number:	358158614535015

1.0 Recorder Description

PEDs are a category of devices comprised primarily of portable computing devices and mobile phones. Portable computing devices are typically capable of internet access, email, messaging services, and can run user-installed applications to perform specific tasks. Depending on the model, mobile phones can perform many of the same tasks as portable computing devices, plus have voice call and text messaging capabilities. PED user and system data is typically stored on non-volatile memory¹ and can be accessed through manufacturer-provided interfaces.

1.1 Recorder Data Recovery

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Division, the Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra was within a zip bag and was wet with a foul smell. Figure 1 shows the device after it was wiped with a dry cloth. The interior of the device showed severe corrosion from water damage, as shown in figures 2 and 3. The main circuit board on which the data stored was removed from the device, ultrasonic cleaned, and vacuum dried. The device was then placed into a surrogate device; however, the device did not power on. The extent of the damage precluded normal and advanced recovery procedures of the laboratory, and additional attempts were unsuccessful in yielding usable data.

¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.

In agreement with the investigator-in-charge, no further data recovery was attempted. No data pertinent to the accident were recovered from the device.



Figure 1. Front and back of the Samsung phone after being wiped with a dry cloth.



Figure 2. The interior of the Samsung phone after being opened.



Figure 3. The interior of the Samsung phone showed severe water damage.