

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED]
Date: 9/29/2011 10:31 AM
Subject: Re: 74-1915-11 helicopter crash

Stu, I know you will, but please get this info to the FAA and NTSB as soon as you can.

thanks, sh

>>> [REDACTED] 9/28/2011 10:12 PM >>>
Guys,

On 09-28-11 around 10:00P I got a call from a Francis [REDACTED]
Francis told me the following reference our helicopter crash.

Francis stated he and a friend named Alex Dutko were at Dutko's camp at [REDACTED] on Hubbard Lake Trail the night the crash happened. Looking it up on a plat map the back of Dutko's property is only about 40 acres as the crow flies from our crash site. Francis said it was between 9:00 and 9:15P and he and Dutko had just returned from Alpena and he was outside unlocking the camp gate while Dutko was inside the vehicle.

Francis said he heard a helicopter come right over the top of him and looked up and saw that a helicopter was only about 300 feet above the ground heading in a north / northwest direction. Francis said the helicopter was under full power and had all of its lights on, that it did not appear to be in distress, that it did not sound as though it was sputtering or having mechanical issues, and it appeared to be going approximately 90 mph.

Francis said approximately 20 seconds later he heard a loud but "Muffled ruckus" in the direction the helicopter had just flown. Francis said it sounded like a series of loud sporadic gun shots (probably the rotor hitting the trees) and then everything went silent. He said he did not see or hear an explosion, and that he did not see any fire or smoke. Francis said the weather at the time was "Raining like hell" but that there was no wind when he saw the helicopter.

Francis stated because what he heard sounded like gun shots, knowing there is a military base nearby, he thought it might have been the military doing exercises in the area, and didn't give it much thought. Francis said he had asked Dutko if he had seen the helicopter from inside the vehicle, but Dutko had not seen it or heard it.

Francis said on 09-28-11 one of the surrounding landowners mailed or emailed a copy of the news article about the crash to Dutko, who in turn called Francis and informed him of the crash and the noises he heard were that of the helicopter crashing. Francis then called here.

Stu, I made a copy of the map, highlighted both properties and stuck them in your mail drawer. I tried to supp the report but AICS was still down at the end of my shift. I will supp it later with above info. If you need anything else let me know.

[REDACTED]