



The National Transportation Safety Board

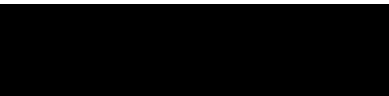
Office of Aviation Safety
Central Region
Memorandum for the Record
Witness Statement Summary
CEN18FA244
Sterling City Texas
June 29 2018

Cathy McEntire

I was sitting on the front porch that evening waiting for Mackey. He came in and made his approach to the helicopter trailer and began to land but aborted the landing, backing away and to the west, gaining altitude. Then the helicopter began a violent spin, I think in a counter-clockwise direction (I'm not positive it was counter-clockwise). It reached a height of 20-25 feet still spinning - perhaps it spun 4-5 times. Then I heard a loud noise, something like a back-fire, and the helicopter fell. My impression is that there was no engine noise after the popping sound (it was not an explosion). But I'm not certain because I was running and screaming. I do know for certain that at the time of the popping sound, the tail was pointing west. I could clearly see Mackey in the pilot's seat. As the helicopter fell, I momentarily lost sight of it because of the feed bunkers. I did not see the impact.

The engine was not running when I reached it. I ran around and felt for a pulse. There was none. I unbuckled the seat belt and tried to get him out, but I could not. I called the Sheriff at 8:13pm.

Alexander Lemishko



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