

Memorandum of Conversation

Date: 7 November 2017

Time: 1500 central standard time

Conversation Including: Rock Palermo III; CPSO Aviation Unit Manager

Conversation Regarding: CEN18LA026, N138WH

Duration of Call: 15 Minutes



Summary & Factual Information from Conversation:

Mr. Palermo is the local law enforcement contact with the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office. Mr. Palermo was the local law enforcement onsite coordinator following the accident.

Mr. Palermo reported that the helicopter's external cargo long line severed after contacting a shield wire suspended between power transmission towers near Sulphur, Louisiana. The two linemen being hoisted on the long line were fatally injured when they fell about 100 ft to the ground.

The power company was installing guard ropes between the deenergized 500-kilovolt power transmission lines before the existing shield wire from the nearby transmission tower was replaced. The east/west power transmission lines crossed perpendicular over North Claiborne Street. There were three sets of bundled conductors (northern, center, and southern).

Mr. Palermo stated that the severed long line appeared to be a ½ inch diameter nylon mountain climbing rope. The long line was not equipped with an abrasion-resistant cover. The 60 ft long line was severed about midspan. One section of the severed long line measured 30 feet 7 inches, and the other section measured 28 feet 2 inches. The two linemen were wearing Y-harnesses and helmets. A 100 ft long line equipped with an abrasion-resistant cover was found on the ground at the temporary landing zone near the operator's support vehicle.

Mr. Palermo reported that there was video footage of the flight, which showed the long line separate about midspan after extended contact with the braided steel shield wire suspended between power transmission towers.

--- End of interview summary ---

I can attest that the above summary and factual information was taken on the above stated day, and is correct to the best of my knowledge:

Signed: _ Andrew Todd Fox (NTSB Air Safety Investigator) _

Dated: _ 07 November 2017 _