



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Jennifer Rodi
Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Person Contacted: Carl Newton – FAA Inspector
NTSB Accident Number: CEN18LA247

Narrative:

During the conversation, Inspector Newton stated the following:

- The helicopter was in Phase I; about 25 hours total
- During the flight the helicopter started to shudder; about 20 to 30 ft above ground level. The airspeed was not reported.
- The pilot started to descend and look for a place to land
- The pilot heard an audible “pop”, immediately lost tail rotor control, and the helicopter started spinning or rotating counterclockwise
- The pilot attempted to stop the rotation but was not successful
- The pilot sustained multiple injuries including a broken right leg and was hospitalized
- After the helicopter was recovered, further examination revealed that the tail rotor pinion had failed
- The transmission showed little damage from the impact, some cracking around the upper area where the mast comes through as well as minor scrapes on the exterior but nothing to show an impact force to result in an impact related failure of the pinion
- There was no damage to the tail rotor blades or the tail rotor driveshaft
- No other mechanical anomalies were noted with the helicopter that would have precluded normal operations