

Memorandum of Conversation

Date: May 6, 2020

Time: 1445 central daylight time

Conversation Including: Brian Lundquist, FAA Inspector

Conversation Regarding: CEN20CA064, N715RK

Duration of Call: 30 Minutes



Summary & Factual Information from Conversation:

NTSB Investigator Fox called Mr. Brian Lundquist who was the assigned FAA inspector for the helicopter accident that occurred about 1615 CST on January 21, 2020, at the Independence Municipal Airport (IIB), Independence, Iowa.

Investigator Fox explained that the NTSB was alerted to a YouTube video post that asserted the helicopter's ducted tail rotor had failed before the helicopter began rotating uncontrollably toward the ground. The comments associated with the YouTube video suggested that the ducted tail rotor had failed possibly due to a bird strike or failure of the tail rotor gear box.

Inspector Lundquist stated that the FAA had a delayed response to the accident site due to a significant winter storm with freezing rain and snow after the accident. Inspector Lundquist asked the local law enforcement to tarp the helicopter until their arrival on January 23, 2020. Inspector Lundquist stated that when they arrived the ducted tail rotor had been exposed to the elements and was partially covered by snow. There was no evidence of a hydraulic fluid leak or grease on the ducted tail rotor. The tail rotor blades exhibited impact-related damage, but there was no evidence of any bird strike. Inspector Lundquist noted that the helicopter's tail rotor had impacted an unoccupied parked airplane before it impacted the ground. The tail rotor teleflex cable moved the rotor blades when the cockpit pedals were moved back and forth. Inspector Lundquist stated that he reviewed photos provided by the local law enforcement, taken on the day of the accident, and that there was no evidence of a bird strike or hydraulic fluid leak.

--- 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 _

Dated: _ May 6, 2020 _

Andrew Todd Fox
National Transportation Safety Board
Air Safety Investigator