

RECORD OF PHONE CONVERSATION

Accident # CEN20LA136 (N107EH) **Individual** Meg Schmidt

Contact # [REDACTED] **Eye Witness**

Narrative Statement:

Meg Schmidt provided a witness statement to the Audubon county sheriff's department on the day of the accident (03/31/2020). Mrs. Schmidt was in a pick-up truck traveling south on Robin Ave. She was located at the intersection of 240th Street and Robin Avenue. when the accident occurred. She was interview by telephone and the following is a summary of the interview.

According to Mrs. Schmidt, she was traveling home from work that day on Robin Avenue and as she was approaching the intersection, she noticed the helicopter from her left. It was heading in a southwest direction into the sun at a low altitude. She was unsure if it was turning to the southwest or already heading in that direction. Mrs. Schmidt stated that she did not see the helicopter contact the wires, because it occurred above her. She did remember hearing a "woof" sound and then a "twang" sound immediately followed by a flash of light and small debris hitting her truck windshield. She then saw the helicopter appear from above and in front of her. It was upside down about 15-20 feet off the ground and looked to be entangled in wire. The helicopter hit the hillside, just inside the cornfield, across the intersection to her right and exploded into flames. She immediately contacted 911 to report the crash. She waited at the intersection for first responders.

Mrs. Schmidt stated that she was familiar with helicopters. She has been around them several times and ridden in them. She did not remember hearing or noticing anything unfamiliar with the helicopter prior to the accident. "It sounded like a normal helicopter."

Inspector Name:
Michael W. Newhall

Work Address:

[REDACTED]

Work Phone:

[REDACTED]

Signature:

Date: 04/02/2020

RECORD OF PHONE CONVERSATION

Accident # CEN20LA136 (N107EH) **Individual** Rodney Frank

Contact # [REDACTED] **Eye Witness**

Narrative Statement:

Rodney Frank provided a witness statement to the Audubon county sheriff's department on the day of the accident (03/31/2020). Mr. Frank was approximately 1,000 yards east of the intersection of 240th Street and Robin Avenue when the accident occurred. He was interviewed by telephone and the following is a summary of the interview.

According to Mr. Frank, he was burning burlap sacks about 1,000 yards east of the intersection when he heard a helicopter approaching. When he first saw the helicopter it was to his right, flying south at low altitude along or above the power lines that run along the east side of Robin Avenue. Mr. Frank stated that he has always had an interest in helicopters so he was watching it and wondering why it was so low. He did not hear or notice anything unusual about the helicopter other than questioning why it was so low with the approaching high power lines. The helicopter started to make a gentle turn to the southwest, not in a way that looked like the pilot was aware of the high lines, just making a turn. He saw the helicopter strike the bottom two-power lines at the intersection. There was an arc of light and sound, the power lines waved and arced again, up by him and the field driveway. The helicopter crossed over the intersection and crashed, bursting into flames. He called 911 and proceeded to the crash site to see if he could do anything.

Inspector Name:
Michael W. Newhall

Work Address:

[REDACTED]

Work Phone:

[REDACTED]

Signature:

Date: 04/03/2020

RECORD OF PHONE CONVERSATION

Accident # CEN20LA136 (N107EH) **Individual** Tony Vance

Contact # [REDACTED] **Eye Witness**

Narrative Statement:

Tony Vance provided a witness statement to the Audubon county sheriff's department on the day of the accident (03/31/2020). Mr. Vance was in his house at 2381 Robin Avenue when the accident occurred. He reported hearing the helicopter, but did not witness the accident. He was interviewed by telephone and the following is a summary of the interview.

According to Mr. Vance, he was in his house when he heard what sounded like a low flying helicopter. He stated that he made a comment to his daughter about the noise; "it sounded really loud, like a knocking sound." He went outside to see what it was when he heard a loud bang and saw smoke to the south. He went to the intersection to see if he could do anything. There was a woman in a pick-up truck on the phone with first responders. She saw it go down.

Inspector Name:
Michael W. Newhall

Work Address:
[REDACTED]

Work Phone: [REDACTED]

Signature:

Date: 04/02/2020