

September 19, 2020

I was mowing lawn and I saw Mr. DeRousse coming at a distance behind Welge-Pechacek Funeral home going north around 2:00 p.m.. Mr. DeRousse usually turns and goes behind Welgc-Pechack Funeral Home and State Bank of Prairie Du Rocher and from there he goes between the bank and the storage sheds.

When I got to the end of my yard mowing, I looked over towards the highway (South) and at Ez Storage and it look like the tail of the helicopter hit the corner of shed (picture attached) and when falling it fell against shed and was facing west towards the bank and exploded in fire.

Helicopter crashes, kills pilot in Red Bud, Illinois

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RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Timothy N. Sorensen
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: September 30, 2020
Person Contacted: Kathy Birke
NTSB Accident Number: CEN20LA400 – Red Bud, Illinois

Narrative:

Ms. Birke was across the street mowing grass at the time of the accident. She observed the helicopter shortly after it departed as it headed toward the east. Nothing seemed out of the ordinary at that time. About 15 minutes later, she saw the helicopter approaching from south of the funeral home (on the south side of the street) which was the pilot's usual practice. The pilot normally approached to land from the south and hover taxied along the area between a bank and a storage building where the helicopter was based.

Ms. Birke looked toward the south as she was mowing. She observed the helicopter near the end of the storage building as the tail of the helicopter appeared to hit the upper portion of the building. The helicopter rotated, struck the side of the building, and caught fire. The helicopter was facing east when the tail struck the storage building but then it came to rest facing west. She responded to the accident site. The helicopter was on fire by the time she arrived.

Ms. Birke recalled the weather as clear with light winds.

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