

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Aviation Safety
Central Region



CEN21FA330

RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Zach Corbin, Witness

July 20, 2021

Interviewee: Zach Corbin (Witness)
Date/Time: July 20, 2021 / 1445 central daylight time
Location: Accident Site
Investigator: Samantha Link, NTSB Air Safety Investigator

Mr. Corbin stated that he was driving east on 75th Street NE when he saw the helicopter spraying the adjacent cornfield.

Mr. Corbin saw the helicopter completing east and west spray passes over the cornfield, with each additional spray pass progressively closer to the north end of the field. He saw the helicopter fly over the power lines that crossed the field during two consecutive spray passes but on the third spray pass the helicopter flew underneath the power lines while heading west. Mr. Corbin thought it "odd" that the helicopter would fly underneath the power lines instead of crossing over them.

Mr. Corbin then entered a nearby pole barn and, shortly thereafter, he heard a loud boom, and the pole barn shook momentarily. He exited the pole barn and saw smoke rising from where the helicopter had crashed in the corn field. Mr. Corbin and his father responded to the accident site where they observed the helicopter engulfed in flames.