



**CEN21LA225
CASE FINDINGS**

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On May 18, 2021, about 1430 central daylight time, a helicopter was performing aerial application operations when it collided with a power line. The helicopter impacted about 150 yards from the power line with a segment of a wire found in the debris field between the wires and the final resting of the wreckage. The pilot was transported to an area hospital.

The helicopter was photo documented and moved to the company's facility. The company reported that the control rods were impact separated from the helicopter and one was located about 300 ft from the wire and the other 400 ft north of the helicopter's ground impact.

After the wreckage was released, an investigator hired by a lawyer group representing the pilot's estate examined the wreckage and reported that sponges were found in the control servos. Photos of the servos and sponges were submitted and reviewed. The sponges appeared to be in place prior to the accident, but their condition and location did not appear to interfere with the servo piston. The sponges were located where the control servos mount in the support frame. When asked about the sponges, the operator reported that the sponges were zip-tied in place when they purchased the helicopter (about December 17, 2019). The operator assumed they were in place to stop fluid spray from the hydraulics soiling the circuit breaker panel, so they were left in place. According to maintenance records the helicopter had flown over 317 hours since the operator had purchased the helicopter.

No anomalies were discovered with the helicopter.

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