



RECORD OF MEMORANDUM

Samantha Link
Aviation Accident Investigator
Central Region

Date: July 22, 2021
Person Contacted: Mr. Ray Griffith (Pilot)
NTSB Accident Number: WPR21LA339

Narrative:

In an email to the Federal Aviation Administration, Mr. Griffith provided the below statement and photos of the helicopter.

“The accident happened on July 20th around 5:30pm in West Liberty, IA. Just after starting a new field I was flying from east to west and felt a big tug on the helicopter realizing that I just hit a wire. The aircraft pitched up and started slowing down. I flew about a 150 yards before feeling another huge jerk on the rear of the helicopter at that point I was about 20 feet off the ground in about 20 knots and the aircraft started to spin. It spun around 2 to 3 times before it impacted the ground on its left side. As soon as the aircraft comes to arrest I released my seat belt and egressed out of the aircraft on the pilot side door. Shortly realizing that the second hard jerk to the aircraft was the wire I hit was wrapped around the aircraft and it got wound up on the tail rotor tearing the tail rotor gear box off the aircraft which was the cause for the aircraft to start spinning. I have no injuries other than a sore back. Attached are some pictures of the aircraft.”

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On Scene Photos:



Figure 1: The Front of the Helicopter

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Figure 2: The Top of the Helicopter



Figure 3: The Main Rotor Head



Figure 4: The Wire



Figure 5: Damage to the Mast Housing



Figure 6: A Fragment of Wire was Located Inside



Figure 7: The Tail boom

END.

Submitted by: Samantha Link