



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

John Brannen
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Central Region

Date: October 13, 2021/16/2021
Person Contacted: Jackie Sanders
NTSB Accident Number: CEN21LA348

Narrative:

During a telephone conversation, Mr. Sanders confirmed that he was the pilot of an R66 helicopter involved in this accident. When asked to describe what happened he replied:

Started the day at 7:30. Weather was a bit marginal at 1300-1400 overcast with 4 miles visibility. Headed to Winnebago area to spray field. Sprayed about 3 hours uneventfully. Then had to shut down for 30-45 minutes due to light rain. After the rain passed the spraying in the Winnebago area was finished and the helicopter loaded with chemical. The helicopter was then flown to the Pender area to spray more fields. He did an aerial surveillance of the first field noting wires at the south end, and decided on a spray pattern to use and began the first pass. This pass was from north to south in rolling hills with terrain elevation changes of about 300 ft. As he was flying the pass, he saw that the end of the field was coming up on his GPS, but could not see the end of the field visually because of a hill. He was flying about 90 knots on this pass. When he came over the hill, the wires were at eye level and he tried to climb over them, but the helicopter's landing gear struck the top static wire and the helicopter then crashed.

When asked if there were any preimpact mechanical problems with the helicopter he said there were not. He provided his total time and time in type as 3,360 and 250 respectively.