

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of Research and Engineering

Washington, DC 20594



CEN23FA071

PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Specialist's Factual Report

March 24, 2023

A. ACCIDENT SUMMARY

Location: Galliano, Louisiana
Date: December 29, 2022
Time: About 0833 central standard time (CST)
Airplane: Bell 407, N595RL
Operator: Rotorcraft Leasing Company, LLC

B. PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES SPECIALIST

Specialist: W. Deven Chen
Electrical Engineer - Recorder Specialist
National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB)

C. DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION

A recorder group was not convened. The NTSB Vehicle Recorder Division received the following personal electronic devices (PEDs) belonging to two passengers onboard the Bell 407:

Device Manufacturer/Model:	Apple iPhone SE 2020
Device IMEI Number:	356853115142384
Device Manufacturer/Model:	Apple iPhone 8
Device IMEI Number:	358712095203772

1.0 Device Description

PEDs are a category of devices comprised primarily of portable computing devices and mobile phones. Portable computing devices are typically capable of internet access, email, messaging services, and can run user-installed applications to perform specific tasks. Depending on the model, mobile phones can perform many of the same tasks as portable computing devices, plus have voice call and text messaging capabilities. PED user and system data is typically stored on non-volatile memory¹ (NVM) and can be accessed through manufacturer-provided interfaces.

¹ Non-volatile memory is semiconductor memory that does not require external power for data retention.

1.1 Data Recovery

1.1.1 Apple iPhone SE 2020

Upon arrival at the Vehicle Recorder Division, the Apple iPhone SE 2020 had sustained impact damage, as shown in figure 1. Despite significant damage to the bottom part of the device, the device powered up normally and was unlocked with a provided passcode. A video, which was recorded during the accident flight, was downloaded from the device. The documentation of this video can be found in the *Video File and Onboard Image, Audio, and Data Recorder - Group Chairman's Factual Report* in this investigative docket. There were no other data pertinent to the accident on the device.



Figure 1. Apple iPhone SE 2020 as received.

1.1.2 Apple iPhone 8

The Apple iPhone 8 had sustained impact damage in the event. The extent of the damage is shown in figure 2. The device was inoperable. After the screen and digitizer were replaced, the device powered on normally and was unlocked with a provided passcode. The recorded data were examined, and no data pertinent to the accident were found.



Figure 2. Apple iPhone 8 as received.