



RECORD OF CORRESPONDENCE

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NTSB Accident Number: CEN23LA086

An inspector from the San Antonio Flight Standards District Office examined the helicopter wreckage and forwarded photos of the damage to the helicopter and the tree branches.

An aerospace engineer with the NTSB and a Robinson air safety investigator reviewed the photos and provided the following information.

- The smaller branches of the tree (that were toward the top of the tree) were chopped, and the medium branches (in the middle of the tree) were either chopped or broken.
- The size and shape of the dents in the leading edge of the tail rotor (TR) blades matched the size and shape of the medium size branches of the tree that were broken.
- The fracture surfaces of the tail rotor gear box (TRGB) housing were angular, jagged, rough and matte gray, which was consistent with overload.
- The location of the fracture indicated the excessive load (that caused the fracture) was applied in a rearward direction. The TR blades rotate in a clockwise direction looking from left to right, with the lower blade advancing.
- The roller bearings and races were clean and smooth with no indication of heat or discoloration.
- The gear teeth were undamaged with no indication of abnormal wear.