



Investigator: Name Jason Aguilera
Title: Senior: Air Safety Investigator
Division: Office of Aviation Safety, Central Region

Date: April 6, 2023

Subject: CEN23LA135, Mineral Wells, Texas, Bell Textron APT70 Accident

Contact: Michael Roznick, Flight Test Engineer, Bell

According to the manufacturer, during the planned flight test, the aircraft's electrical system flight control computer (FCC) registered a low battery voltage reading and went into an emergency automatic land in place flight command. The ground station operator (GSO) attempted to override the system, but the system rejected the pilot's GSO's commands.

The ground station operator then attempted to change the land in place waypoint, but the system again rejected the command. The aircraft performed its land in place maneuver and collided with a shrub which resulted in the aircraft tipping over coming to rest inverted. Substantial damage was sustained to the lower left wing section.

Jason Aguilera