

ERA14CA143 Statement From Pilot

From: Gunther Todd
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 2:22 PM
To: Alleyne Eric
Subject: ERA14CA143 Statement From Pilot

From: Adam Cordova [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 1:58 PM
To: Gunther Todd
Subject: Statement From Pilot

From: Wayne Fuoco [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Friday, March 07, 2014 9:02 AM
To: Adam Cordova
Subject: Statement

I was recently asked to come in to work as a back up pilot at Air Force Fun. They had me go take a pre employment drug screening on Monday February 3rd. On February 6th I was asked to work at Air Force Fun on Monday February 10th. With the short notice and my busy schedule that week, I was not able to make it to Air Force Fun to be properly trained. I arrived at Air Force Fun on Monday February 10th at approximately 9:15am. Air Force Fun opens at 9:30am. When I arrived, customers were already inside waiting for a tour. I walked out to the helicopter with the Manager Adam Cordova. He did not know any of the gate codes to get into the helipad or the lock box where supplies were kept. I had to receive this information via text message from their pilot Dale Goodman who was out of town. Once inside the gate I noticed the helicopter had custom covers on it. There was a cover on the front bubble, the back cowling, the main rotor mast, and the tail rotor. I then continued to take off the covers and preflight the aircraft. I noticed there was no headset on the pilot side. I asked Adam if he had a headset and he told me they were inside with the tip jar. I followed Adam back to inside to get a headset. I then told the passengers to follow me to the aircraft so I could properly load them. Adam then told me to just go start the helicopter and that he would bring them out once the machine is running. I then went back outside and started the helicopter. Approximately 10 seconds after I engaged the clutch I heard a snap and felt the helicopter shake. I immediately pulled the mixture to shut down the helicopter. At this point I knew that I had not taken off the tail rotor cover. The customers inside said that they had seen the cover on but did not say anything. Adam said that he wasn't watching when I started the machine. I accept responsibility for the situation.

Best Regards,
Wayne Fuoco
Chief Pilot
HQ Aviation LLC