

N44EK, R44, Chatham, NJ off airport, 2.24.2017

File: Robinson R44, N44EK, Chatham Borough, NJ 02.24.2017

INSPECTOR'S STATEMENT

1850 – Chris Scott ROC called Inspector Richard T. Rohrig and reported helicopter down in Morris City, NJ (confirmed to be Chatham Borough (Chatham). Officer Beasley on scene [REDACTED]. Initially reported 25 Main Street, confirmed to 525 Main Street between Division Ave and La Fayette. Tail of helicopter hit single story garage, “propeller” hanging down, aircraft is upright on landing gear. 2 SOB, pilot uninjured still at scene, other taken to hospital, did not appear life threatening, 2nd person identified as William Benson, taken to Morristown Memorial Hospital. ROC said aircraft was traveling from RIC to Lincoln (Park), reported to KMMU Tower he was lost, then autorotation. When asked, Officer said no fuel visible on ground around aircraft. Aircraft is not a hazard or blocking roadways. Told to check for ELT, found light on, pilot told to turn off, light went off.

Pilot John J. Walsh would not talk to anyone, provide Attorney Chris Koaronus [REDACTED] for contact. Requested authorities verify pilots identity with photo ID and get copies of Pilot Certificate and Medical Certificate.

Captain Brian Gibbons on scene. Would secure scene overnight, told him I would arrive early am.

Asked for witness statements if available. Two callers reported 1 – Don Spefao [REDACTED] and 2 – Richard Kramer [REDACTED] reported “low flying helicopter”.

Spoke to SS at MMU TWR, he said aircraft first reported 3 south of MMU, transiting S – N enroute to Lincoln Park, 2300’ descending to 1800’, then stated he was autorotating, didn’t know where he was, asked tower if they “had him” going into A/R. Saw aircraft at 1200’ then seconds later last return at 600’.

Advised NTSB I would not be on scene until am.

Doug Brazy NTSB on call, [REDACTED]

Chatham Borough PD ([REDACTED])

Captain Gibbons [REDACTED]

MMU Tower [REDACTED]

**RICHARD T.
ROHRIG**

Digitally signed by RICHARD T.
ROHRIG

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