



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Timothy W. Monville
Sr. Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region

Date: October 30, 2017
Person Contacted: Bernard Campbell
NTSB Accident Number: ERA17LA256

Narrative:

Mr. Campbell was contacted by phone on July 24, 2017, at 1717 EDT. He was called at [REDACTED]

He holds a private pilot certificate with airplane single engine land rating; his certificate number is [REDACTED]. His e-mail address is [REDACTED]. He has between 38-40 hours in the accident helicopter. Its last annual/condition inspection was late November or early December of 2016. The helicopter was equipped with a Lycoming VO-360 engine.

He has the NTSB Pilot/Operator Aircraft Accident/Incident report.

With respect to the accident flight, which consisted of practicing around the airport staying in the grass area outside of the runway, he was seated in the left seat. He departed Spartanburg Downtown Memorial Airport (SPA), Spartanburg, SC, about 2000 hours on July 18, 2017, for a planned 45 minute local flight. About 25 minutes into the flight, he proceeded to return to the ramp of SPA where he planned to secure the helicopter. While flying about waist high, or about 4 ft above ground level at an indicated airspeed between 16 to 24 mph, he felt a shudder and the helicopter yawed to the right. He added left anti-torque control input and overcorrected, then adjusted with right anti-torque control pedal input, which confirmed he had tail rotor authority. He reported that when the helicopter straightened out, he did not recall hearing any engine noise, although he had the doors off. The next thing he knew he was on the ground and the helicopter was leaking fuel. He also reported he did not hear any horns or audio annunciations.

When asked to report the readings of the engine gauges, he reported he did not have a chance to look at them.

In looking at pictures, the left anti-torque pedal was depressed.

The digest was e-mailed to him for review on October 24, 2017, at 1608 EDT. He replied on October 28, 2017, at 2133 EDT, with comments that were incorporated into the narrative.