

Chase Olsen Conversations 04.09 to 04.11.2018

On 04.09.2018 at approximately 0100 hours I responded to UMPC Presbyterian hospital emergency in reference to Chase Olsen being involved in a helicopter crash. At approximately 0230 hours myself and Stephen Zalaskus were able to speak with Chase as he was being wheeled into surgery. This conversation consisted of my concern for his health and wellbeing. I asked him if he knew what happened, and he replied, everything was normal and the next thing I knew I felt like I was sucked into the tower and I went into full right cyclic. The next thing I knew I was going over the tower.

On 04.11.2018 at approximately 0930 hours myself, Dave Garen, Stephen Zalaskus and Scott Yukimura went to see Chase in the ICU and inquired about his health and wellbeing. We asked if he could run through the sequence of events that led up to the crash.

He advised Michael was having some difficulties in dealing with the rigging on several other towers. He said I positioned the aircraft next to the tower so they could start installing the armor rod. Then he said Michael put his arm under the line to lift it and was in the process of installing the armor rod and that everything was normal. He said I was there about 30 seconds when it felt like something sucked me into the tower then he went full right cyclic and went over the structure.

At approximately 1430 hours we returned to see Chase to check on him and let him know we were leaving and that we would see him soon.

Kenneth Zalaskus

[REDACTED]

Conversations with Chase Olsen 4/9/18 – 4/11/18

4/9 [Afternoon](Stephen Zalaskus present) The first time I saw Chase after the accident not much was communicated. He asked me what the condition of the linemen was. I told him I didn't know. Chase told me that everything was "normal" and that something pulled him into the pole. Chase was having a hard time keeping his eyes open and staying focused. After that we mainly worked on if he had feeling in his hands and feet/ toes.

4/9 [Evening](Stephen Zalaskus present) I checked on Chase before I went to the hotel to get some food and sleep. We did not discuss what may have happened. I told him I would check on him on Tuesday and to try to get some sleep.

4/10 [Late morning](Stephen Zalaskus present) I spoke with Chase and he was in a lot of pain. He was much more alert. He once again asked about the condition of the linemen was. I told him that I didn't know. He made me promise him that I would find out. I asked him if he felt good enough to try and tell me what happened. Chase told me that he was "clipping fiber off the skid" and they were about to clip the last structure. He said that they were hovering next to the pole for about 30 seconds and then all of a sudden something pulled him hard left, he went full right cyclic and left pedal and the last thing he remembered was looking straight down at the ground.

4/10 [Late afternoon](Stephen Zalaskus present) Chase was in a lot of pain. I don't recall discussing what may have happened, just talked about how he was feeling. I told him I would come back and see him the next day.

4/11 [Mid morning](Stephen Zalaskus, Kenny Zalaskus, Scott Yukimura present) We went to visit Chase and discuss what he remembers. He asked me if the linemen "made it" and I told him that they did not. Once again, he said they were "just clipping fiber off the skid" and everything was "normal". He said that he was at the pole for about 30 seconds and the lineman was wrapping the armour rod on the wire. He then said that all of a sudden the helicopter was getting pulled to the left, he went full right cyclic, left pedal and the last thing he remembers is looking straight at the ground. I asked him if the lineman was using a hoist to pull the wire and he told me the lineman was lifting the wire with the "inside of his elbow" to wrap the armour rod.

4/11 [Early afternoon](Stephen Zalaskus, Kenny Zalaskus present) Stephen, Kenny and I went back to visit Chase and tell him we were leaving. That we would come back and visit him soon and we hoped he would start feeling better soon.



David Garen

Recount of conversation with Chase Olsen on 4/11/18, Pittsburgh UPMC Hospital

I saw Chase mid morning on 4/11 with Dave Garen, Kenny Zalaskus and Stephen Zalaskus all present.

Chase was awake and seemed alert enough to talk with him and ask him what had happened.

He said he was clipping fiber off the skid with the two linemen, one on the skid and the other was in the seatbelt in the backseat to facilitate material transfer. This is a standard configuration for this routine task.

He mentioned they had already done several structures that day. He said that they had arrived at the structure and everything looked good. He said he was at the pole for about 30 seconds already and the lineman was in the process of wrapping the armour rod on the wire. He mentioned that in the process of twisting the rods around the wire, the lineman had used his elbow to lift the wire slightly to help get the rods underneath where the wire was contacting the dolly, just as they had done on all the previous structures. He then said that all of a sudden the helicopter felt as if it was being pulled left into the structure. He said he applied full right cyclic and left pedal to stop the aircraft going left, and the last thing he remembers is the aircraft rolling left and he was looking straight at the ground.

Just to be sure, I asked him if the lineman was using a hoist to lift up the wire at that point, and he told me no, they had not gotten to that step yet and the lineman was lifting the wire with his elbow just before he felt the aircraft being pulled into the structure.



Scott Yukimura
Chief Pilot
High Line Helicopters, LLC

Record of Conversation with Chase Olsen

4/8/2018 9:00pm Erie ER

The first conversation I had with Chase was when he was at Erie hospital. He was getting x-rays done on all his extremities. After, we talked about his well-being and his pain level. I told him how happy I was that he was alive. Chase was very coherent about this situation, but just very confused on why it happened. He told me they were clipping in line off the skid and that he was very comfortable. He stated that he was sucked into the structure. He said he rolled over the structure. Then, he was wondering what had happened to the other two guys. I told him we would talk about that later. From there, the ER was preparing him for transport.

4/9/2018 2:30 am

Present: Kenny Zalaskus

I left Erie to travel to UMPC Presbyterian in Pittsburgh. I arrived at the ER around midnight. I was able to talk to Chase at 2:30 for about 10 minutes before he was taken in to the OR (operating room). Chase explained that he was happy we were there with him. Kenny had asked him what went on and Chase said that everything was normal and stated the fact that he was sucked in to the structure, went full cyclic, then we remember going over the structure.

4/9/18 4:00 pm

Present: Dave Garen

Chase had been in surgery all day. When Dave and I were able to talk to him, he was very drowsy. We very briefly discussed the accident. When Dave asked him what had happened, he told Dave that everything was normal, and that he was pulled in to the pole by something. We did not elaborate on the accident, as we could tell he just wanted to go back to sleep. I told him that we were there for him and that we would be back in to see him.

4/9/2018 8:00pm

Present Dave Garen

We checked in with Chase before we left for the night. We did not discuss what happened. We just expressed to him that we were happy he was still with us. We told him we would be back in the morning.

4/10/2018 Morning/ Early Afternoon

Present: Dave Garen

We talked to Chase and asked him how he was feeling. He told us he was in a lot of pain. Chase was asking about the linemen; he made us promise that we would find out their condition. Dave had asked him how he felt about talking to us about what happened. Chase said he was clipping in fiber off the skid.

They were about to clip the last structure. He said they were working on the structure for about 30 seconds. While he was working, he said something just pulled him in to the structure. He corrected with full right cyclic and left pedal but that did not stop him from getting pulled in to the structure. The last thing he remembers is looking straight at the ground. After that, we just talked about his comfort level and told him we wouldn't be far if he needed anything.

4/10 6:00pm

Present: Dave Garen

We checked on Chase before going to the hotel for the night. We asked him how he was feeling. He said he was in a lot of pain. We told him that we would be back to see him in the morning.

4/11 10:00am

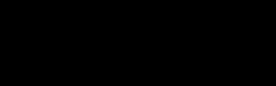
Present: Dave Garen, Kenny Zalaskus, Scott Yukimura

We were all visiting Chase. We asked if we could talk about what had happened once again. Chase told us that he was fine with talking about it. Chase has kept inquiring about the two linemen and wanted to know if they made it. Dave told him they did not. Chase went on to say we were clipping fiber off the skid, and he said he was very comfortable with what he was doing. He had been there for about 30 seconds until something pulled him in to the structure. He remembers the individual on the skid was halfway through putting the armored on the line. He said the individual needed to pick up the line to finish installing the armored. The individual used the inside of his arm to pick up on the line. From there, Chase said he was pulled in to the structure and went full right cyclic and left pedal. Then, he was looking straight at the ground. He said there was no equipment on the line, and the lineman was using the inside of his elbow to hoist the line.

4/11 1:00pm

Present: Dave Garen, Kenny Zalaskus

We went in to check in on Chase and tell him that we were leaving. I told him that I would be back to see him soon. I expressed to him we would be thinking about him and that if he needed anything to let me know.



Stephen Zalaskus