

Williamsburg Jamestown Airport

100 Marclay Road

Williamsburg, Va. 23185

July 9, 2018

Subject: N616HS, Crash of Helicopter Robinson 44 (R-44)

Sunday, July 8, 2018, the above referenced helicopter arrived at Williamsburg Jamestown Airport (KJGG) at 1300 (1 P.M.). The A/C was owned and piloted by Henry Schwarz. I saw him arrive and touch down on the ramp and both appeared to be normal.

I had an airplane to fuel, so I walked out of the FBO toward the fuel truck. Mr Schwarz was walking across the ramp toward me. I stopped and greeted him. We chatted for a couple of minutes. He requested that I fuel his helicopter while he was here. I fueled the other aircraft and then fueled his helicopter while he was conducting the meeting of the Virginia Helicopter Association. He was the current President of the Association. The meeting lasted approximately 2 hours.

Mr. Schwarz came to the restaurant cash register and paid for his lunch. He then came to the FBO cash register and paid me for the 13.6 gallons of 100 LL that I had pumped into his helicopter. He left the FBO and started toward his helicopter. I then remembered that I had info on an individual that wanted to join the helicopter association. When I departed the FBO, Mr. Schwarz was already in the process of doing his pre flight check. I walked across the ramp, gave him the note. He thanked me for the name and contact info. We chatted approximately 2, 3 minutes. I asked him about his age. He told me that he was 85 years old. I thanked him for coming to KJGG and told him that he was always welcome here. I then returned to the FBO. I heard him start the helicopter. I stood in the FBO and watch his departure which appeared normal with one exception. When he lifted off, he dragged the left skid of the helicopter approximately 6 feet on the tarmac. Everything else appeared to be normal. The engine sounded normal. The flight appeared normal. He departed from runway 13 at 1626 (4:26 P.M.). I watched his departure until he made the turn out and disappeared from my sight. I proceed with my normal duties of working at the airport. A few minutes later, I heard that a helicopter had crashed in an area of the City of Williamsburg.

Note: When Mr Schwarz arrived at KJGG, there was no radio communication from him. When he departed, he did not announce his departure on the radio. I tried to have radio communications with him on his departure. He did not respond.

[REDACTED]

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