



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Millicent Hill
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: October 17, 2018
Person Contacted: Ken Gilliland

This investigator interviewed Mr. Gilliland and he stated the following:

The helicopter is shared by five counties, he is the Chief pilot, instructor pilot, and mechanic. The helicopter is based in Columbus, Georgia, he is based in Clanton, Alabama. At times in the past he would spend time in Columbus training pilots and working to set up their flight program.

He stated the most recent conditional inspection on N510CP was completed on September 27, 2018. The purpose of the accident flight was to drop off the accident helicopter and pick up another helicopter to take back to Columbus. Typically, the helicopter would be brought to Clanton for maintenance, the accident pilot had made the trip four or five times to drop off a helicopter to be worked on. Each time he made the trip to Clanton he had a passenger with him. He had been told "over and over" not to carry passengers.

He stated he had given flight instruction to the pilot, who was a police officer and a fixed-wing flight instructor. He said he learned quickly and did well flying the helicopter. He recalled giving about 30 hours of flight instruction to the accident pilot. He taught the required commercial maneuvers, off airport landings, and how to use the helicopter to aid in searching for drowning victims. He had given the pilot a flight review on September 15, 2017.

Most of the pilot's flight training was in Columbus, he was unfamiliar with the Clanton area. He stated the power lines between the dams aren't marked, only the transmission lines have markers.



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Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: November 17, 2018
Person Contacted: Lt. Tony Little, Columbus Police Department

This investigator interviewed Lt. Little and he stated the following:

Lt. Little stated he was overseeing the task force helicopter operations. The pilot typically flies the helicopter once a week for proficiency. The accident flight was a scheduled maintenance trip. The pilot texted him about 5 minutes before he was airborne. He stated the pilot was a fixed-wing pilot and instructor, he started flying part time for CPD about 4 or 5 years ago. The pilot does annual an check ride for insurance.



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

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Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: December 3, 2018
Person Contacted: Kyle Griswold

This investigator interviewed Mr. Griswold and he stated he did not know his brother was going to be on the helicopter the day of the accident. He said his brother received a call from the pilot asking him if he wanted to take the flight. He got permission from his boss and accepted the flight. He stated his brother had planned to fly with the pilot later on that day, in Columbus. The pilot asked him to go to the Auburn airport, 30 minutes away, instead of the Columbus airport, which was 5 minutes away. He believed the pilot asked his brother to go to the Auburn airport to avoid being seen riding in the helicopter.



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

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Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: November 20, 2018
Person Contacted: Dennis Bak

This investigator interviewed Mr. Bak and he stated the accident pilot was his flight instructor, and he had planned on flying with him the day of the accident. He was unable to take the flight due to time constraints, so the pilot called other students, and eventually contacted the passenger. He stated he trusted the pilot and he was an excellent pilot. He thought they were likely “zipping along the lake and probably didn’t see the power lines,” and the he was “an unbelievable pilot, but complacency got him.”



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

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Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: November 19, 2018
Person Contacted: Todd Story, Auburn Airport employee

This investigator interviewed Mr. Story and he stated the following:

Mr. Story stated he was working when N510CP approached the airport from the southeast and land. About 10:47, he escorted the passenger out to the helicopter, he got in and the helicopter departed. The pilot did not shutdown the helicopter at any point during the passenger pickup.



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

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Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: November 29, 2018
Person Contacted: Ana Lee

This investigator interviewed Ms. Lee by telephone, and she stated the following:

She was on the porch when she heard the helicopter, a friend alerted her to the helicopter flying over the river. She stated it was “really low” and below the tree tops. She said the helicopter appeared to do a “trick” similar to a car doing doughnuts. The first trick it appeared the pilot was still in control of the helicopter, it did another trick, or turn, as it descended into the river. She was not sure what direction the helicopter had come from, possibly from the lake down the river (from the north), or from the east. She saw the powerlines snapping and falling into the river. She thought the helicopter was going down the river and was possible attempting to go over or under the lines, or, the first turn was to get away from the lines but was unsuccessful, and the second turn was the helicopter getting caught in the power lines.



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Millicent Hill
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: October 21, 2018
Person Contacted: Mitchell Hardin

This investigator interviewed Mr. Hardin and he stated the following:

Mr. Hardin stated he and a friend were at a house on the east side of the river, about one half of a mile north of the power lines. He reported hearing the helicopter and going outside, the helicopter was northbound, and headed towards the river from the east. He stated the helicopter was really low, and he knew the power lines were in the area and not marked.

He saw the helicopter flying north, then do a maneuver over the river, and fly south. He thought the helicopter was doing some type of trick, it whipped around real quick and started flying the opposite direction. He said it seemed like it was a controlled maneuver, the nose was low and the tail of the helicopter swung around, the helicopter flew south, then he heard an explosion. After the helicopter was flying south, he heard the engine rev up before hearing the explosion.



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Millicent Hill
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: October 21, 2018
Person Contacted: Jacob Adams

This investigator interviewed Mr. Adams and he stated the following:

Mr. Adams stated he was fishing in the Cagle Creek, the first one north of the accident site, on the west side of the river. He reported hearing the helicopter first, then he saw it come over the treetops from the southeast. He stated it was going west towards the river, then it got lower, closer to the water and it caught his attention. He reported it was below the tree line and he had never seen a helicopter that low over the river. He stated the helicopter got low, turned left, and headed south down the river. He saw the tail smoke and the helicopter nose dive into the river. He stated it was his second time on the river and he did not know where the power lines were.



MEMORANDUM for RECORD

Millicent Hill
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: October 17, 2018
Person Contacted: Eric Jacobs

This investigator interviewed Mr. Jacobs by telephone, and he stated the following:

He was fishing in Bird Creek, about 2 miles north of the accident site. About 1130, he heard the helicopter, then saw a dark color Bell helicopter fly from north to south at about 500 ft. He stated it was going slow, about 30 knots or less, and appeared to be in search mode. The helicopter flew over west of his position.



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

500 2nd Ave North
Room 204
Clanton, Alabama 35045

Chilton County
John Shearon, Sheriff

Phone (205) 755-4698
Fax (205) 280-7245

Statement Form

CASE NUMBER: 201803791	DATE: 11-16-18	TIME: 12:38 p.m.
NAME: Jacob Adams	ALAIS:	
ADDRESS:		
HOME PHONE:	WORK PHONE:	CELL PHONE:
DOB:	SSN:	OLN:
RACE: White	SEX: M	HGT: 5'6" WGT: 180 lb. EYES: Brown
		STATE: AL HAIR: Brown

STATEMENT

A black helicopter came flying over the trees and made a left hand turn headed toward the south dam. I seen smoke come from the tail end and at that time it nose dived into the lake. I called my cousin Jeffrey to get someone close by to head that way if we would be able to save him. Then called 911 and headed to where he crashed.

[Signature]

CONDUCTED BY:

PAGE: / OF /

THIS IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE STATEMENT WRITTEN BY:

SIGNED:



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

500 2nd Ave North
Room 204
Clanton, Alabama 35045

Chilton County
John Shearon, Sheriff

Phone (205) 755-4698
Fax (205) 280-7245

Statement Form

CASE NUMBER: 201803791	DATE: 11-16-18	TIME: 12:52
NAME: JAMES GLASS	ALAIS:	
ADDRESS:		
HOME PHONE:	WORK PHONE: 706	CELL PHONE:
DOB:	SSN:	OLN:
RACE: W	SEX: M	HGT: 6'7" WGT: 240
	EYES: BLUE	HAIR: BLK
	STATE: GA	

STATEMENT

SAW HELICOPTOR FLYING REAL LOW TO TREES, THEN HEARD A POP SOUND AND THEN ALL WAS QUIET. CAME AROUND THE CORNER AND SAW COPTOR UPSIDE DOWN. I WENT OVER TO IT AND FOUND A WALLET. I GAVE THE WALLET TO FIRE & RESCUE. ALSO GAVE FIRST AID KIT TO FIRE & RESCUE.

JEH

CONDUCTED BY:

THIS IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE STATEMENT WRITTEN BY:

SIGNED:

PAGE: 1

OF 1



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

500 2nd Ave North
Room 204
Clanton, Alabama 35045

Chilton County
John Shearon, Sheriff

Phone (205) 755-4698
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Statement Form

CASE NUMBER:	201803791	DATE:	11/16/2018	TIME:	1245
NAME:	Mitchell Harden	ALIAS:			
ADDRESS:					
HOME PHONE:		WORK PHONE:		CELL PHONE:	
DOB:		SSN:		OLN:	
RACE:	W	SEX:	M	HGT:	6'5"
		WGT:	180	EYES:	Brown
				HAIR:	Brown

STATEMENT

I ^{MH} ~~was~~ heard a helicopter flying ~~overhead~~ and went out on the deck to check it out. As I looked to the south I saw a helicopter flying rather low, coming from the south. Shortly after seeing it, it turned back to the south in a strange fashion. I immediately thought about the power lines being low and shortly after heard a loud explosion. I ran down to the pier to see what looked like 2 objects sticking out of the water where the power lines were. I also noticed the power lines no longer across the lake. I then called 911 and reported what I saw.

MH

CONDUCTED BY:

THIS IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE STATEMENT WRITTEN BY: Mitchell Harden

SIGNED:

(MAYFIELD) PAGE: 1 OF 1



OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

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Room 204
Clanton, Alabama 35045

Chilton County
John Shearon, Sheriff

Phone (205) 755-4698
Fax (205) 280-7245

Statement Form

CASE NUMBER: 201803791	DATE: 11-16-2018	TIME: 12:45
NAME: Anna Lee	ALAIS:	
ADDRESS:		
HOME PHONE:	WORK PHONE:	CELL PHONE:
DOB:	SSN:	OLN:
RACE: other	SEX: F	HGT: 5' WGT: 5'
	EYES: Brown	HAIR: Brown
STATE: GA		

STATEMENT

I was alerted to a helicopter flying over the lake by Mitchell Horden. We went out on the porch and watched a black ^(unmarked? maybe white numbers, not no logos) helicopter at first appearing to do a trick and turn abruptly, it then seemed to catch and turn again curving out into the other side of the lake across the way. ~~It crashed into the lake~~ ^{AL} I watched it crash into the lake, but ~~the~~ ^{AL} the angle it was coming in made it hard to tell if it had landed on the water or the land. We went down to the pier and saw some part of it, maybe the bottom, or the tail, or a couple of the rotors sticking out of the water in alignment to the house behind it.

CONDUCTED BY: [REDACTED] (MAYFIELD)

PAGE: 1 OF 1

THIS IS A TRUE AND ACCURATE STATEMENT WRITTEN BY:

SIGNED: [REDACTED]