

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

Office of Aviation Safety
Washington, D.C. 20594

March 30, 2019

Global Positioning System

Factual Report
By Heidi Kemner

1. EVENT SUMMARY

Location: Talking Rock, Georgia
Date: March 5, 2019
Aircraft: MD Helicopters 396D
Registration: N89ZC
NTSB Number: ERA19FA118

2. DETAILS OF INVESTIGATION

On March 5, 2019, about 1130 eastern standard time, an MD Helicopters (Hughes) 369D, N89ZC, was substantially damaged when it impacted trees and terrain near Talking Rock, Georgia. The commercial pilot was fatally injured. The helicopter was operated by Rotor Blade LLC as a Title 14 Code of Federal Regulations Part 133 external load flight. Visual meteorological conditions prevailed and no flight plan was filed for the local flight, which originated from a nearby field.

The following device was downloaded:

Device Manufacturer/Model: Garmin GPSmap 496
Serial Number: 19728129

2.1. Data Recovery

The device was undamaged and was downloaded normally using the manufacturer's software. Figures 1 and 2 show the front and back of the device.

Figure 1. Photo of undamaged device.



Figure 2. View of back of GPS



2.2. Data Description

The data extracted included 13 track logs from February 26, 2019, through March 5, 2019. The accident flight was recorded starting 09:35:20 EDT and ending 11:06:44 EDT on March 5, 2019.

Figure 3 is a Google Earth Image of the accident flight.

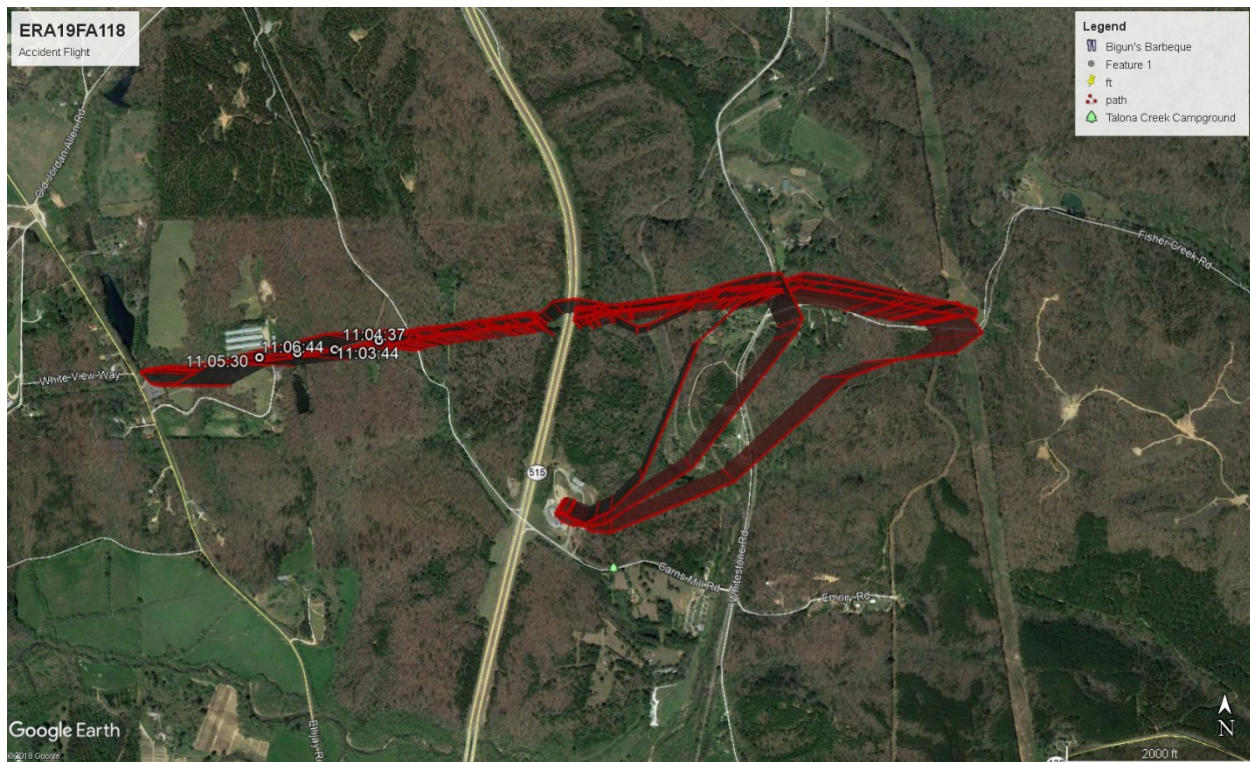


Figure 3. View of accident flight in Google Earth.

2.3. TABULAR DATA

Tabular data are included as Attachment 1. This attachment is provided in electronic comma-delimited (.CSV) format.