



NTSB RECORD OF CONVERSATION

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Date Interviewed: 7/1/2019

Person Interviewed: Jerry Morgan, FAA Coordinator/Charleston WV FSDO

NTSB Accident Number: ERA19TA204

The following is a summary of a conversation that occurred with the above-named individual:

- Inspector Morgan informed me that the accident pilot was “running the river” in a Robinson R44 about 50 ft above the Cheat River in a rural area.
- He described that there were some remotely sited cabins on the east side of the river, and that these cabins were only accessible by boat. There were 3 power/telephone cables running to these cabins. The lowest of the cables was a telephone cable which was about 40-50 ft above the water.
- He stated that as the pilot rounded a bend in the river, the main rotor contacted the telephone cable, shearing the cable, which wrapped around the main rotor.
- He stated that he believed that the helicopter looped after striking the cable and impacted the river in a nose down attitude, coming to rest on its right-hand side in about 4-5 feet of water. Most of the damage was to the right side of the nose. The whole front of the cockpit was destroyed.
- The tail rotor was sheared off, and the tail boom came to rest 25-50 ft downriver from the main wreckage.
- The private pilot was able to unbuckle himself and the wife. The passenger was pinned and extracted by EMS.
- Pilot injuries: stitches, stables in head, no broken bones; Husband: cuts and bruises, no broken bones; Wife: broken collar bone and stitches on face.