



MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Aaron McCarter
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Eastern Region Aviation

Date: July 2, 2021
Person Contacted: Pilot: Kevin Yip
NTSB Accident Number: ERA21LA270

Narrative:

Conversation with the pilot (Kevin Yip) discussing the detail surrounding the accident. He did not sustain any injuries. The cockpit remained largely intact, probably because his forward airspeed was very low after making the turn to avoid the trees. The helicopter struck the ground on its right side, tearing off the tail rotor and shifting the entire mast. The rotor blades struck the ground.

He was finishing up another field and proceeded to the accident field. He always does a reconnaissance of the area before any application of spray and that's the policy. The company is very adamant about safety and recon flights before the start of any job. He made several passes above the field and noticed the larger transmission lines and the smaller ones on the wooden poles and thought he observed them all.

After he started applying the fungicide, probably just a few seconds, he struck the wire. He didn't even see the wire when he impacted it, but he knew he hit something and lost full control of the helicopter.

After the accident, he noticed that he struck a very tiny wire that came out from a house, and it was different than the transmission wires. It was only about the width of a pen, and it was painted green. It appeared that the wire came from a house across the street and was perpendicular to the flight path. Guessing that it was about 30 feet off the ground. The other wires were noticeable, this one was not.

Discussed future recon flights and to always look for structures, poles, and buildings, then look for the wires because wires can be hard to see. He will use this experience to educate other employees. There were no mechanical issues with the helicopter, he simply did not see the wire during his recon flight. Briefly discussed other agricultural accidents with similar circumstances.

He will get the accident report completed. [END]