



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Douglass Brazy
Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

October 6, 2021

Subject: NTSB investigation ERA21LA368, N420AT, Hughes 369, Ash, North Carolina, September 17, 2021. Conversation with pilot Carl Shelly.

The pilot provided the following information via telephone on 10/06/21:

Mr. Shelly indicated that he did not know what may have caused the loss of engine power. He indicated that there was enough power to clear the truck from which he departed, but the helicopter then settled toward the ground. He heard a "pop" sound as it did so.

Prior to the accident takeoff, he landed the helicopter on the support truck, and rolled the throttle to flight idle, before the ground crew loaded the hopper with chemicals. Before the takeoff, he rolled the throttle into the detent, and noted that the needles were in the green range of the tachometer (he did not note the value of N2 at the time). He noted that the helicopter was not likely to be too heavy for the takeoff, he had about 65 gallons of fuel on board.

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