

Investigator Name: Leah D. Read
Title: Sr. ASI
Division: ERA

Date: June 28, 2022

Subject: ERA22FA262

Contact: Kirk Zimmer, pilot's father

In an email exchange, Mr. Zimmer stated that his son Charles was in the process of obtaining his commercial pilot certificate. As such, he was not legal to conduct any agricultural flights for hire. The helicopter was used for agricultural spraying operations on their family farm. However, he would fly the helicopter back and forth to Lebanon, Ohio, for maintenance, which helped accrue flight hours.

Mr. Zimmer said the reason there was no flight time logged in his son's logbook from December 2021 to the date of the accident on June 7, 2023, was most likely due to maintenance (they were awaiting parts from the helicopter manufacturer, who had recently filed for bankruptcy) and because they were busy with regular farming operations during that time.