



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Eric Alleyne
Air Safety Investigator
National Transportation Safety Board
Office of Aviation Safety - Eastern
Region

NTSB Case Number: ERA22LA330
Model/N#: Bell 206B/ N39MK
Date: 7/21/2022
Pilot Statement: Kevin Yip
Subject: Telephone discussion of
accident event

This statement was taken during a telephone interview with the pilot of the helicopter.

According to the pilot, prior to the flight, the helicopter was filled with minimal fuel because of the heavy load of pesticides. He said he received fuel and pesticides with about 8-10 gallons of Jet-A and flew over to the crop field. Initially the pilot reported that he flew for about 20 minutes prior to the accident, but in his written statement he wrote 3-4 minutes. He said that they had multiple fuel trucks in the field at different locations so he could land often. The pilot did not know how much his total fuel quantity was prior to the flight but said he "used a 5-gallon mark as our zero mark to ensure we have enough fuel." During his first pass he noticed the engine rpm starting to drop. He did not have enough altitude to initiate an autorotation and the helicopter descended and collided with the ground. The pilot also stated that "my fuel gauge may be miscalculated, or I did."

Mr. Kevin Yip also sent in an email prior to our second discussion:

"That is incorrect. I stated my initial reaction was an engine loss. But also stated that my fuel gauge may be miscalculated or I did. That part is uncertain. Our operations typically run at minimal fuel because of the heavy load of pesticides and easy access to two trucks, which is why I thought of that post-accident. In the 206B3, we use the 5 gallon mark as our zero mark to ensure we always have enough fuel. As stated before, I received fuel and pesticides from truck #1, approximately 4 minutes prior with about 8-10 gallons of Jet-A, and flew to the accident field where truck #2 was already stationed with additional fuel and pesticides. Truth be told, I honestly have no idea what happened and because everything happened so fast, I can't seem to piece

together the series of events. I am giving you all the details that I can think of in an effort to help with the investigation. I am hoping after the ai craft is analyzed and inspected, that a more definitive cause of the accident will emerge."