



Robert Gretz
Senior Air Safety Investigator
Eastern Region Aviation

Date: **9/7/23**

Subject: **ERA23LA326**

Contact: **Winston Chelf, FAA RIC FSDO**

Mr. Chelf was interviewed via telephone. He responded to the accident site and observed substantial damage to the rotor blades and fuselage. The blade and tower structure damage was consistent with the main rotor striking a structure arm. He subsequently interviewed the pilot via telephone, who reported his attention was diverted as he was trying to get the lineman closer, and thought he struck something. Mr. Chelf did not observe any preimpact mechanical malfunctions with the helicopter.