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Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 06/13/2024

Subject: ERA24LA242

Contact: Karl Hannan - Pilot

Below is a summary of a conversation the NTSB IIC had with the pilot regarding the accident flight of N8045H:

The pilot was asked to describe the accident and the events leading up to the accident. The pilot responded stating that he performed a thorough preflight and that no anomalies were observed. He further stated that the winds were looking good for the area. The pilot reported that the purpose of the flight was to practice approaches and landings at the Laconia airport. The pilot stated that after practicing hovers, and landings, the pilot landed and fueled the helicopter with 10 gallons of fuel. The pilot then stated that he headed home and that the helicopter was operating normally during the entire flight with no anomalies. The pilot then stated that he lined up for landing at his home. He said that while he was hovering the aircraft turned to the right very fast. The pilot then stated that he pushed all the way on the left pedal and dumped the throttle and pulled collective in an attempt to stop the rotation. The pilot then stated that the main rotor blade tip caught a tree and the helicopter impacted terrain.

The pilot was then asked if there was a mechanical issue with the helicopter that resulted in the loss of control. The pilot responded that during the loss of control he initially thought he might have lost the tail rotor; however, after the accident he realized that a wind gust must have caught him which resulted in the loss of control.

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