

Eric Alleyne
Air Safety Investigator
AS-Eastern Region Aviation

Date: 5/6/2025

Subject: ERA25LA059, Pilot accident discussion

Contact: James Paige, Pilot in Command

I spoke with Mr. James V. Paige via telephone to discuss the written statement he submitted regarding the incident involving Bell Jet Ranger N422RH on November 21, 2024, at Lakeland Airport (KLAL).

During the call, Mr. Paige verbally confirmed the contents of his statement. He reiterated that he was operating the helicopter under visual flight rules and had contacted Lakeland Tower approximately 10 miles out to announce his intent to land at Lance Aviation. He confirmed receiving instructions from the tower to proceed south of Runway 28 before turning toward the landing area.

Mr. Paige stated that his intent was to execute a left turn to align with the 340-degree wind direction and land into the wind on the designated pad. However, during the left turn, the helicopter experienced an uncommanded right spin. Mr. Paige attributed the event to Loss of Tail Rotor Effectiveness (LTE), exacerbated by the prevailing 18-knot tailwind. He was unable to recover control before the helicopter descended and impacted the ground.

He confirmed there were no passengers on board and that he was not injured. The purpose of the call was to verify the accuracy of the information provided in his signed statement and to ensure it reflected his account of the incident. No changes to the written statement were requested or made during the call.

-END-