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Aviation Accident Investigator
OAS-ERA

Date: November 21, 2025

Subject: NTSB Duty Officer Phone Interview - Pilot of N668TM

Contact: [REDACTED], Pilot, [REDACTED]

On November 18, 2025, the NTSB Duty Officer received a delayed notification from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regarding an incident involving a Robinson R44 helicopter, N668TM. The aircraft experienced a hard landing during an air tour in Cookeville, Tennessee on November 14, 2025.

On November 21, 2025, the Duty Officer conducted a phone interview with the pilot, [REDACTED] reported that the flight departed from the Putnam County Fairground for a local air tour. During the landing phase, while preparing for a pedal turn at approximately 33 feet above ground level, the helicopter began descending at a rate of about 200 feet per minute. As the pilot initiated forward cyclic to position over the landing zone, the helicopter suddenly dropped from an altitude of about 10-15 ft, and impacted the ground, which resulted in substantial damage to the fuselage.

There were four occupants on board; of the three passengers, one reported back pain but declined medical treatment.

When asked about mechanical issues, [REDACTED] stated that there were no pre-accident mechanical malfunctions or anomalies noted to the helicopter that would have prevented normal operation.

END