



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Michael J. Hodges
Air Safety Investigator
General Aviation Accident Investigation Division (AS-20)

Date: March 23, 2015
Person Contacted: Mr. Britt Heien (Pilot)
NTSB Accident Number: GAA15CA013

Narrative:

The following is a synopsis of the information provided by Mr. Heien in a telephone conversation.

- The event occurred about 2000 CDT on March 20, 2015.
- The helicopter was a Robinson R44, N701CT.
- The pilot was flying for transportation from one private residence to another.
- The pilot approached the landing area and conducted a high and low reconnaissance of the landing pad. The pilot made an approach from the south to the landing pad.
- The pilot stated he landed on the pad and began gently reducing power. The pilot landed towards the edge of the pad to prevent children from reaching over and touching the helicopter had it been parked in the center of the pad. The pilot stated that the helicopter was stabilized for about 3 seconds and then part of the landing pad gave out. The tail rotor hit the ground and the helicopter began rotating to the left. The pilot stated he brought the helicopter over to the right by the trees to avoid the housing area to the left.
- The landing pad has a clay foundation with shell on the top. The pilot stated recent rains may have compromised the landing pad structure.
- The pilot verified that there were no pre-impact mechanical failures or malfunctions with the airframe or engine that would have precluded normal operation.