

Benhoff Kathryn

From: Tod Schultz [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 11:01 AM
To: Benhoff Kathryn
Subject: Fwd: statement

From the student

----- Forwarded message -----

From: chengyi zhang [REDACTED]
Date: Thu, Jan 26, 2017 at 12:22 PM
Subject: statement
To: Tod Schultz [REDACTED]

January - 18 - 2017 Roughly about 1:30 pm
Champaign Airport (CMI)
Chengyi Zhang

I was training my 180 degree Auto Rotation with my flight instructor Tod Schultz. We started our Auto at 70 knots of airspeed and 1250 feet of MSL(500 feet AGL). As soon as tod rolling off the throttle, I lowering the collective simultaneously with aft the cyclic and adding right paddle to enter the Auto. After we entering the Auto Rotation, I started to left and forward cyclic to start our 180 turn. When we little bit over half way finishing our turn, tod found I am diving too much and immediately took over all the controls to stop the diving. He started to roll up the throttle and aft the cyclic to decrease the decent rate and maintain balance. The rest of altitude we had is just enough for us to level off the helicopter but no place for flaring. We came to a hard landing and lost our tail blade as soon as we touch the ground with some forward airspeed. Tod tried to maintain the helicopter on the runway in the loss of tail rotor effectiveness by adjusting the cyclic. We were able to stay on the runway for 200-300 feet and lose the control due to low rotor RPM. We hit the side grass and having our ski digging into the grass. The rest of forward speed flip our helicopter over and main rotor blade hit the grass and stopped. Thank God Tod and I are OK with no injuries.