



RECORD OF CONVERSATION

Noreen Price
Aviation Accident Investigator
Alaska Regional Office

Date: June 10, 2019
Person Contacted: Mr. Robert Rogers, safety pilot
NTSB Accident Number: GAA19CA345

Narrative:

Mr. Rogers was the safety pilot of the UH-1B helicopter N64771 that crashed north of Northway, Alaska, on June 10, 2019. This is a summary of the statements provided to Noreen Price, NTSB duty officer, via a phone interview on June 11, 2019.

- Mr. Rogers has about 11,031 total flight hours and about 297 hours in a UH-1 helicopter. He rode along on the accident flight to provide training and safety oversight of the pilot in command who did not have much UH-1 time.
- Mr. Rogers stated that they calculated the performance requirements of the flight before departing. His paperwork indicated the take off weight was 8,062 lbs and they likely used about 100 lbs during the short flight. The max gross take off limit for the helicopter was 8,500 lbs. The outside air temperature was 60°F. He wasn't sure about the elevation of the landing zone, but he estimated 1,200 feet msl.
- The winds in the landing zone were light. He conducted a fly over of the site before landing. The power was good, and the approach was slow and steady. At about 50 feet, the rate of descent increased. He increased collective, but it did not arrest the descent. Their fly away option was no longer available. He decided to continue to the site. At 20 feet a right yaw increased, and the rate of descent increased more. The helicopter hit hard and then rolled over to the left and the main rotor blades struck the ground.
- During the landing sequence, Dan, the pilot in command, agreed that the fly away option was not good so continuing with the landing was their best option.
- There were no mechanical issues with the helicopter that would have caused the accident.
- Mr. Rogers did not have a current medical.
- He sustained minor back injury during the accident.