



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Allison Diaz
Air Safety Investigator
Office of Aviation Safety – Western Pacific Region

Date: January 28, 2016
NTSB Accident Number: WPR16LA057
Persons Contacted: Kenneth C. Koch, pilot

The following is a summary of the conversation conducted on this date:

- Mr. Koch had recently purchased the helicopter and was flying it from Pendleton, Oregon to his home in Tucson, Arizona.
- A flight instructor had accompanied him on the flight from Oregon to PHX, which consisted of several legs.
- On the day of the accident, they had flown the helicopter from Elko, NV to PHX. Upon reaching PHX, the CFI exited the helicopter and Mr. Koch was going to complete the last leg to 57AZ by himself.
- He stated that earlier in the day, he had been experiencing problems with idling the helicopter; it would only idle around 2,000 rpm, no lower.
- He took off on the accident flight and intended to climb the helicopter to 2,000' msl.
- As the helicopter climbed through 1,500' msl, he felt an abrupt left yaw and looked down to see the engine rpm indication drop to zero. He noticed the rotor rpm begin to decay and immediately entered an autorotation.
- The helicopter touched down on a dry riverbed, contacting the sides of the riverbed as it landed, which resulted in substantial damage to the blades.

END